



Daily Report

Near East & South Asia

FBIS-NES-91-040
Thursday
28 February 1991

Daily Report

Near East & South Asia

IRIN NEWS 01/00

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Inter-Arab Affairs

GCC Leader Says 'Old Arab Order is Finished'

PM2702155891 Rome LA REPUBBLICA in Italian
24-25 Feb 91 p 7

[Telephone interview with Gulf Cooperation Council Secretary General 'Abdallah Bisharah in Riyadh by Majdi 'Allam in Rome; date not given]

[Text] Rome—"Abdallah Bisharah is secretary general of the Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC)—the political, economic, and military organization comprising the six Arab countries of the Gulf (Saudi Arabia, Kuwait, Oman, the United Emirates, Bahrain, and Qatar). On the telephone from Riyadh, two hours from the expiry of the ultimatum, he replied categorically: "The ground offensive is inevitable and will not last many days. Saddam must be removed from power, and the multinational forces must stay in the region even after the war in order to guarantee its security."

['Allam] When will Kuwait be liberated?

[Bisharah] It will happen within a few days. The ground offensive is inevitable; it will be a decisive battle but will not last long. It will not be the "mother of battles;" we should pay no attention to Iraqi propaganda.

['Allam] Why has the GCC rejected the Soviet peace plan?

[Bisharah] The Soviet proposals do not conform to the UN resolutions. They have taken up only half of UN Resolution 660, speaking of "withdrawal" but without specifying "from the whole of Kuwait." The Soviet proposals make no mention of Kuwait's sovereignty and national independence or of the legitimate Kuwaiti authorities' return to power. Likewise, Iraq is not asked to renounce any claim to Kuwait. Moreover, the proposals conflict with the UN resolutions because they rescind economic sanctions and the right to compensation for the damage caused in Kuwait. In fact, Saddam would like to save his skin and protect his own Armed Forces in order to be able to continue the policy of hegemony, provocation, and destabilization in the entire region.

['Allam] Let us talk about the postwar period. This war has confirmed that the six Arab countries of the Gulf are unable independently to guarantee their own defense and security. There is talk of the GCC's possible evolution into a confederation or federation of the six states. Can you confirm this?

[Bisharah] We are determined to evolve and to consolidate the GCC's integration process, ensuring in the first place guarantees for regional security, based primarily on the Arab forces of the Gulf themselves, with the involvement of Arab, Islamic, and international forces. It must be clear that we will not accept or allow Iraq's being able to repeat its crime against the Kuwaiti people.

['Allam] Can I deduce that Kuwait will ask for foreign forces to stay on its own soil even after the end of the war?

[Bisharah] Kuwait has the right to ensure defensive measures capable of preventing a repetition of the tragedy, including keeping on its own soil multinational forces operating under a UN mandate. This is inevitable.

['Allam] Do you believe that coexistence between the Arab countries of the Gulf and Saddam Husayn is still possible?

[Bisharah] It is impossible; it is impossible. Saddam talks while hiding a dagger under his clothes; his regime gives us poisoned food to eat. It is impossible to coexist after this crime. We were negotiating with him until a few hours before the aggression. While we were talking, they were preparing to stab us in the back. No country or people in the Gulf wishes to coexist with Saddam any longer, after he has insulted, humiliated, betrayed, and declared war on them. I believe that the Iraqi regime is doomed to fail: Its hours are numbered; I do not believe at all that it can survive. It is a violent and outlaw, aggressive, and expansionist regime; it aims at regional hegemony, and instigates unrest. It must be confronted and contained. Its end will come at its own hands; they are committing suicide.

['Allam] How do you see the Arab world's future in the postwar period?

[Bisharah] The foreign ministers of Egypt, Syria, and the GCC met in Cairo last week. The foundations have been laid for a new Arab order, based on legality, mutual respect, noninterference in internal affairs, and the primary role of the economy to create mutual interests. In Cairo, we signed a communique, and we will meet in Damascus next week to complete the discussions. I will say frankly that the countries which have approved the Iraqi aggression and supported Saddam's crime will have no place among us. Do you believe that we could forget the attitude of King Husayn or 'Arafat? It is to be completely ruled out. The old Arab order is finished. We are building a new order which will reject demagoguery and ignorance.

Palestinian Affairs

PLO Statement on U.S. Cease-Fire Rejection

LD2702193991 Algiers Voice of Palestine in Arabic
1702 GMT 27 Feb 91

[Text] The official Palestinian spokesman announced the following after a meeting of the Palestinian leadership in Tunis yesterday afternoon:

The decision by Iraq to withdraw is in compliance with the Soviet initiative and in accordance with Resolution 660, which the PLO has agreed to since the beginning. The PLO supports the Soviet initiative and the holding of an urgent session at the UN Security Council on a

cease-fire, an important and fateful point in the Gulf crisis which all Arab and international efforts have sought since the beginning of the crisis. The Palestinian ideas declared on 30 August 1990, that were put forward to the Arab states, the UN Security Council, the UN Security Council permanent member states, the EEC, the nonaligned states, the Islamic states, and the African and friendly states, were compatible with the Soviet, Iraqi, and Arab initiatives for a solution to this dangerous crisis.

The PLO, just as the Arab and Islamic nation and all the benevolent and respectable people in the world, was surprised by the hostile American position that was declared by the American Administration and the American White House, which rejects the initiative and the cease-fire, despite the withdrawal—which was their main request—but continues the aggression against Iraq and its steadfast people. This, in addition to the continuation of the obstruction of the Iraqi Forces withdrawing from Kuwait, marks and drops the mask on the horrible face that America and its allies wear regarding the fact that the aim was and still is not Kuwait or the Gulf states but is, as we previously pointed out, striking against Iraq, the aggression against the Iraqi people and the destruction of its living, economic, scientific, and cultural infrastructure and the destruction of civilization and history in the land of the two rivers, in addition to the attempt to hit the Iraqi military, which constitutes the protective shield of our Arab nation. The serious matter is, however, the harming of Iraqi territory and occupying parts of the desert west of Basra.

The mask has now fallen and the United States has begun increasingly to reveal its manner, aims, and its ambitions of perpetrating its new security order in our region, controlling the sources of oil, stealing the wealth of our homeland, and imposing American hegemony on the Arab and Islamic homelands and the peoples of the Third World.

The continuation of the war against Iraq, its Army, people, and leadership after the implementation of Resolution 660 and the withdrawal from Kuwait constitutes the most dangerous situation to face the entire Arab homeland and all free and honorable people in the world, not just the Iraqi people alone.

Thus, we again call upon the Soviet Union in particular, upon China, the nonaligned states, the African and Islamic states, and even the European states to stop the blood-letting and halt this insane war and flagrant aggression, and to resolve the aftermath of Gulf crisis in a spirit of detente and brotherhood, away from the perpetration of hatreds and the sowing of seditions and disturbances in the region and in the states of the Third World. Hatreds and rancors in the blood of peoples build neither peace, stability, nor security.

We appeal to the Security Council to try to impose its authority, away from submitting to the American Administration and its plans, in order to stop the

fighting immediately and impose peace, not only in the Gulf but also in the Middle East region and Palestine in particular. Once again, we repeat the call to the permanent members of the UN Security Council to contain this tragedy and stop the blood letting for the sake of peace, not subservience and surrender.

***Arafat Fears Massacre of Palestinians in Kuwait**

LD2702183991 *Algiers Voice of Palestine in Arabic*
1702 GMT 27 Feb 91

[Text] The brother leader, president Abu-'Ammar [Yasir 'Arafat], president of the state of Palestine, has stressed that all Maghreb, Arab, Soviet, and Islamic efforts, and those of the nonaligned states, should be aimed at imposing a cease-fire and establishing a comprehensive peace in the Middle East region.

In an interview given to Algerian television, the brother president added that the Arab homeland should stand alongside Iraq in order to stop the insane and destructive war, the war of revenge. He added that the new U.S. order not only targets Iraq, but the whole Arab region.

The brother president expressed his fear of a massacre of the Palestinians currently in Kuwait, similar to the Sabra and Shatillah massacre. He confirmed that he has requested Algerian President Chadli Bendjedid to protect the 170,000 Palestinians in Kuwait.

***Arafat Gives News Conference, Views War Events**

Part I

PA2802013291 *Mexico City NOTIMEX in Spanish*
0209 GMT 27 Feb

[Part I of statements to the press by PLO chief Yasir 'Arafat to NOTIMEX correspondent Gerardo Arreola in Tunis]

[Text] Tunis, 26 Feb (NOTIMEX)—Following Iraq's withdrawal from Kuwait, the United States and its allies "must stop this aggression and put an end to the hostilities," PLO Chairman Yasir 'Arafat told NOTIMEX here today.

In his first news conference since the Iraqi forces left the Emirates, 'Arafat said that what is now taking place complies with the UN Security Council resolutions.

He added: "However, people should know that this war will leave deep wounds among the people. There will also be hatred, and this means that there will not be stability or safety in this area, which is a strategic area of the world."

He warned that "nobody should think that we are going to surrender, give up our principles, and accept an attack against an Arab country by foreign forces. (Emiliano) Zapata preferred martyrdom to slavery. The continuation of the military actions on the part of the United

States and its allies after the Iraqi decision actually reveals a conspiracy previously prepared against the people of Iraq."

'Arafat said that U.S. President George Bush's speech on Tuesday about the continuation of the war "reveals that the objective is not Kuwait, but to hit the Iraqi force that represents the Arab force, because the Iraqi force is a force for the entire Arab nation."

The 61-year old leader pointed out that "the most urgent issue now is not the Palestinian issue, but ending hostilities." 'Arafat granted the interview early this morning in one of the PLO offices in the capital of Tunisia.

"We hope the USSR will be able to impose a cease-fire, particularly following the Iraqi withdrawal. That requires a firm stand, considering that the USSR is a world power and a member of the Security Council," he added.

'Arafat reported that the PLO has been fully aware "from the very beginning of the Soviet efforts to achieve a peaceful solution to the war in the Persian Gulf."

He feels that "it is not very easy to organize an international conference on the Middle East if the United States tries to impose a new order, its new order, and divide the Arab zone into zones of influence of the United States and its allies."

The Palestinian leader then said that "this is an issue that has great influence on the war and its makes the Europeans participate. Each one of them expects to have a share when the conflict is over."

'Arafat pointed out that "a true possibility for peace would be first, to halt the war, and second, to implement the UN resolutions on all causes in the same manner, including—of course—the resolutions on the occupied Palestinian territories."

The PLO chairman noted that "as a movement of national liberation, we strongly reject slavery and aggression against any Arab nation. No one should think that the Arab nation is going to accept colonialism and humiliation."

He rejected the idea that there is any division within the Arab world. "The Arab nation is united and rejects foreign aggression. However, there are some Arab leaders who are friends of the United States, as there are some in Latin America," he added. He assured the intifadah will continue "wave after wave until the Israelis put an end to their occupation of the Palestinian territories."

The PLO chairman pointed out that in that area 1,500 people have died, 98,000 have been imprisoned, and 90,000 have been wounded. As a result of the violence, there have been 7,000 miscarriages and 6,500 persons have been disabled.

"In addition to all this, there is the occupation and the daily aggressions against our holy places, and nobody does anything about these crimes," he noted.

"Neither the media nor the Security Council has made any move on the Palestinian problems to implement the Security Council resolutions," 'Arafat pointed out.

'Arafat emphasized that the Palestinian people have lost much in this war. "The Palestinian community in Kuwait is the largest foreign community in that country and the richest Palestinian community outside the occupied territories."

Part II

F42802013691 Mexico City NOTIMEX in Spanish
1755 GMT 27 Feb 91

[Part II of statements to the press by PLO chief Yasir 'Arafat to NOTIMEX correspondent Gerardo Arreola in Tunis]

[Text] Tunis, 27 Feb (NOTIMEX)—Yasir 'Arafat, chairman of the Palestine Liberation Organization (PLO), told NOTIMEX today that the U.S. presence in the Persian Gulf area seeks "to protect petroleum, not a country."

In his first statement to the press after Iraq's withdrawal from Kuwait, 'Arafat said the "basic objective of the United States is to destroy the structure of the Iraqi people."

In a message addressed to "Arab brother President Saddam Husayn," 'Arafat had indicated that the objectives of the Iraqi struggle are "the defense of Iraq, the Arab and Islamic nation, and all the Third World peoples."

He noted that the last Arab summit that was held in Baghdad in May received a message from U.S. President George Bush "indicating very well, very clearly, that the U.S. presence in the zone was due to petroleum."

He warned that it is false that Israel is keeping out of the Persian Gulf conflict: "The cruise missiles are launched from the Negev Desert and the U.S. aircraft carrier Forrester is in Haifa."

He added that after the end of the cold war and the detente agreements, the United States has deposited in Israel the armament that it had to withdraw from Europe.

In other words, "Israel has turned into a strategic depot for U.S. weapons," 'Arafat added.

"The Palestinian people have lost much in this Gulf crisis. The Palestinian community in Kuwait is, as is known, the largest foreign community in that country and the richest Palestinian community outside the occupied territories," he said.

The Palestinians in Kuwait lost \$11 billion because of the war, including bank deposits. The population of the occupied territories lost \$1.25 billion from transfers of Palestinians in the Persian Gulf, he added.

A special U.S. and European committee which held meetings in Rome in October indemnified "all the homeless left by the war, but not the Palestinians. Is not that discrimination?" the PLO leader asked.

He also said the United States blocked in the UN Security Council at the end of August, an initiative to find an "Arab solution" to the crisis.

The eight-point proposal was presented by the PLO and was based on the withdrawal of Iraq from Kuwait as well as of the foreign forces from the Persian Gulf region.

In that initiative, which was not debated because of the U.S. veto, the PLO asked for the preservation of "the Kuwaiti people's right to self-determination" as well as of "Iraq's interests," in line with "the special links and relations existing between Iraq and Kuwait," he added.

The initiative called for the replacement of the Iraqi troops in Kuwait by Arab forces and would demand "a solution to the Palestinian problem, as well as other political issues in the Middle East."

"The Kuwaiti problem could have been solved in the Arab world, just as we solved the problem of the Syrian intervention in Lebanon or when the Egypt of (the late President Anwar) al-Sadat occupied part of Libya or when there were problems between Morocco and Algeria," Arafat told NOTIMEX.

DFLP Holds First Rally in Amman in 20 Years

Voices Support for Iraq

JN2302104091 Amman JORDAN TIMES in English
23 Feb 91 p 3

[Special to JORDAN TIMES by 'Awdah 'Awdah]

[Text] Amman—For the first time in twenty years, the Democratic Front for the Liberation of Palestine (DFLP) held a public rally in Amman to celebrate its 22nd anniversary.

Addressing the public rally, which was attended by some 20,000 people, were Jordanian and Palestinian figures. Speakers voiced their full support for Iraq in its war against the American-led alliance, and pledged support for the Palestinian uprising to enable it to continue unabated.

The Palestinian ambassador in Amman, al-Tayyib 'Abd-al-Rahim, noted the important role the DFLP has played in leading the Palestinian struggle and in crystallising the provisional national programme for the Palestinian struggle in 1974, which served as a basis for the Palestine Liberation Organisation's programme of struggle drafted in Algiers in 1988.

'Abd-al-Rahim also said that the DFLP has played an active role in enriching Palestinian political thinking and promoting democratic dialogue.

20,000 People Attend

JN2302104091 Amman JORDAN TIMES in English
23 Feb 91 p 3

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'Abd-al-Rahim also said that the DFLP has played an active role in enriching Palestinian political thinking and promoting democratic dialogue.

Papers Praise Successes, Regret Iraqi Losses

NC2702140291 Manama WAKH in Arabic 0800 GMT
27 Feb 91

[Excerpts] Manama, 27 Feb (WAKH)—Gulf newspapers this morning continued their coverage of the latest details of Operation Desert Shield and the Iraqi forces' defeat and retreat from the State of Kuwait which has been under Iraqi occupation for seven months. [passage omitted]

In the State of Qatar, the newspaper AL-'ARAB said that this is the end we expected—the surrender of the tyrant after his defeat as a result of the crushing blows that enabled the allied forces to liberate Kuwait, terminate the hateful occupation, and raise high the flag of Kuwait after the defeat of the devil.

The paper adds that the Baghdad tyranny has surrendered after the Iraqi Army became dispersed fragments after the Baghdad Hulegu [the grandson of Genghis Khan] turned it into a tool to serve his objectives.

AL-'ARAB says: We are now looking forward to a revolution by the Iraqi people against the murderous, aggressive, and destructive regime. We are looking forward to a move by the remaining Iraqi forces to topple this regime whose removal is a prerequisite for the achievement of permanent peace in the region.

Concluding its editorial, the paper says: As Kuwait has been liberated, we are looking forward to a role by the Iraqi Army to free Iraq from the Tikriti clique which must be toppled after all the tragedies it has inflicted on the Iraqi people.

In the United Arab Emirates, the newspaper AL-WAHDAH and AL-FAJR express in their editorials overwhelming happiness with the liberation of Kuwait and the victory of the international coalition forces. At the same time, they expressed disappointment and bitterness over what has befallen the people and Army of Iraq.

AL-WAHDAH says that Kuwait has once again become free from the unjust Iraqi occupation after an unprecedented blitzkrieg war in terms of fast accomplishment and light losses through a perfect and well-studied plan which made the head of the Iraqi regime offer immediate withdrawal. His forces continue to flee or surrender seeking safety from the destructive hurricane in which they were drawn by a stubborn, intransigent, defiant, and egoistical man who was deluded by those who indicated to him that the war will end in his favor without the least understanding of the end of the well-planned decisive international battle and without drawing any prior conclusions on the outcome of the battle.

The newspaper AL-FAJR says that there is no way to describe this disgraceful end of the Iraqi plot but to cry "what a loss!"

The newspaper adds: It is a great loss to see the Iraqi edifice collapse. We hoped it would be an asset to the Arabs at difficult times. It deviated, however, from the right course and directed its guns not toward the enemy, but toward its Arab brothers, thus inflicting a deep wound in pan-Arabism and its shells causing a crack in the Arab structure.

The newspaper expresses extreme regret for the loss of Iraq's funds and young men and for the loss of all the efforts that have been made for over 40 years to resolve the major Arab cause—the Palestine question. All that happened in order to achieve Saddam Husayn's personal illusions of becoming emperor of the Arabs. The result was Iraqi bankruptcy and a tragedy for every Iraqi house. Also, Israel has been provided with a sophisticated defense system and with thousands of millions [of dollars] from all sides. [passage omitted]

Bahrain

Amir Congratulates Kuwaiti Amir on National Day

NC2502144091 Manama WAKH in Arabic 1040 GMT
25 Feb 91

[Text] Manama, 25 Feb (WAKH)—The amir of the State of Bahrain, His Highness Shaykh 'Isa Ibn-Salman Al Khalifah, has telephoned the amir of Kuwait, His Highness Shaykh Jabir al-Ahmad al-Sabah, to congratulate him on the 30th anniversary of Kuwait's national day.

They reviewed current developments in the region in light of the ongoing efforts to liberate Kuwait. His highness expressed optimism about the imminent good tidings heralding the liberation of Kuwait and the return of Amir Jabir al-Ahmad al-Sabah, his government, and his people to Kuwait to pursue the march of good and sacrifice.

Kuwaiti Resistance Thanks Amir for Support

NC2602175791 Manama WAKH in English 1550 GMT
26 Feb 91

[Text] Manama, Feb 26 (WAKH)—H.H. [His Highness] the Amir of Bahrain Shaykh 'Isa Bin-Salman Al Khalifah received a message from the contenders of the people's resistance movement in Kuwait expressing their gratitude to H.H. the amir for his support to the Kuwait just cause for the liberation of their land from the Iraqi occupation.

They also praised the courageous stand of H.H. the amir, government and people of Bahrain in backing Kuwait and its people to achieve the goal and restoration of the Kuwaiti legitimate inspired rights.

The Kuwaiti resistance underlined the hospitality the Kuwaiti people received in their second homeland Bahrain, that reflects the long-standing historic ties and fraternity between the two peoples.

They also affirmed that their struggle will continue till Kuwait is back free and independent, and its people return to practise their normal role in serving their country and their Arab and Islamic nations.

General Command Discusses Defense Force Mission

NC2702183391 Manama WAKH in Arabic 1818 GMT
27 Feb 91

[Text] Manama, 27 Feb (WAKH)—The official spokesman for the General Command of the Bahraini Defense Force has said that the Bahraini force working with the fraternal and friendly forces in the operation to liberate Kuwait has carried out all its missions efficiently and fulfilled its objectives and is now on the outskirts of the liberated city of Kuwait.

He added that two of our heroic soldiers were wounded while performing their holy national duty. They are now in satisfactory condition and receiving full medical attention.

Kuwait

Foreign Minister Discusses Postwar Security

LD2702150291 London KUNA in Arabic 1055 GMT
27 Feb 91

[Formerly Kuwait KUNA]

[Excerpts] Cairo, 27 Feb (KUNA)—Shaykh Sabah al-Ahmad, Kuwaiti deputy premier and foreign minister, states that the concept of pan-Arab security should be comprehensive, fall within the framework of the Arab League Charter and away from axes and alliances. In a statement to the Egyptian newspaper AL-MUSAWWAR published today, in which he deals with the post-crisis phase, Shaykh Sabah al-Ahmad adds that the meeting scheduled for Damascus during the next few days will be the basis as far as the future of the new pan-Arab security as we envisage it is concerned. [passage omitted]

He said that when talking about Arab security arrangements, we should bear in mind that there is the Arab League Charter. Therefore, when we talk about Arab security, we are talking about it from the starting point of the Arab League Charter. Regarding the region, we should bear in mind that Iran is within the border of the region and not outside it; therefore, Iran would not be kept away from anything relating to the region's future security. [passage omitted]

Regarding the West's participation in the security arrangements, he said that we should bear in mind that a foreign presence is nothing new as far as this area is concerned—I mean the Gulf area. The foreigners have been in the Gulf for more than 40 years, and it would not be realistic for me to discuss this, whether I want or not. They are present in international waters, and therefore there is no objection by us to any foreign presence in the area if this is in accordance with an agreement with

another state. We should be honest with ourselves first before being honest with others, as, following the events of the past few months and after the Iraqi invasion of the State of Kuwait, confidence was lost and every person began searching for his people's stability and who would help him in establishing this stability.

Regarding Egypt's role, he said that Egypt has first of all proved its presence in the heart of every person in the Gulf states. Second, I would like to remove any suspicion or doubt that the Arab region will neutralize Egypt, because we cannot live without Egypt, and we should be frank with the Egyptians and with ourselves. [passage omitted] I would like therefore to reaffirm that Egypt will receive unique and distinguished treatment as far as every Gulf state is concerned.

He pointed out that Iraq is an Arab state, and nobody wishes to see Iraq vanish, partitioned, or not to remain as one strong Iraq, despite the fact that there is currently an Iraqi regime which will not allow us to gain any benefit from Iraq as a state. When this regime ends, however, Iraq will have exactly the same role as its other brothers in this region. [passage omitted]

Shaykh Sabah al-Ahmad said that Turkey has no ambitions at all in the area. This was stressed upon us. Therefore, why should we express a great deal of doubt about neighboring states? Why should we blame them for things they are not thinking about nor intending to do?

Regarding the possibility of conducting negotiations between Kuwait and Iraq following the end of the crisis, he said that it is extremely difficult to restore trust between the Iraqi regime and the people of Kuwait, and the peoples of the region as a whole. Hence, and in order not to precipitate events, we would like to say that we feel the suffering of our brothers in Iraq. We are saddened to see the Iraqi people subjected to bomb attacks and killing in huge numbers. By the same token, we feel great pain that our people inside Kuwait are tortured, its men and women executed. We would like to state, however, that Saddam should bear full responsibility; the alternative to this is that he should disappear from the field of events in the region.

I would like to stress that there will be no negotiations with Iraq, either with the present regime or a future regime. There will be no negotiations between us. All we have is a number of agreements that should be implemented. At the same time, the UN Security Council resolutions should be implemented, including paying the necessary reparations to Kuwait.

He said that the Iraqi withdrawal from Kuwait will not change anything. Today, I am asking for all reparations from Iraq for my country, to which I will return to find it empty and void from a single bed for a patient. I will not talk now about the sums, which I will come back to later.

Asked whether there are any border problems between Iraq and Kuwait, he said that there are no border

problems, because originally speaking the borders did not undergo any alterations. The border problem issue is an allegation made by Iraq alone. There is an agreement between us, signed by the Iraqi prime minister. We want to implement this agreement. We do not ask for anything more than what is due to us on an equal share, as agreed by the Kuwaiti and Iraqi Governments.

Regarding the issue of oil prices, the minister said we should realize that, before the incidents in the Gulf and the Iraqi invasion of Kuwait, the price of oil reached between \$7 and \$8 per barrel. [price as received] We should also realize that oil is always seen as the cause of a problem, and a number of people forget that oil is a matter of supply and demand. Man will not eat oil, but he is forced to sell it. Therefore, the price of oil could reach \$7 or \$8 per barrel. After what has happened, one needs to rebuild and reconstruct, and for this reason oil may be sold in the largest possible quantities. We hope that OPEC will define this issue so that oil prices are affordable to everyone. It should not be highly expensive nor so cheap as to reach a declining level. The decisive word will be left to OPEC if it remains steadfast and strong.

As for the Soviet role regarding the Gulf crisis, he said: A few days ago I was in the Soviet Union and met President Gorbachev. My trust increased following what I heard from him on the stance of the Soviet Union and its total commitment to all United Nations Security Council [UNSC] resolutions for which it voted. He stressed to me that it was impossible for the Soviet Union to renounce its policy for which it voted and participated in shaping at the UNSC; it insists on the implementation of these resolutions. What is new is what has happened recently and which has been labeled the Soviet initiative.

I would like to stress—and this is how I understood things because I cannot speak on behalf of the Soviet Union, that the moves by the Soviet Union will not affect its principled stance and will not harm its insistence for the implementation of the UNSC resolutions.

Shaykh Sabah al-Ahmad stated that everybody plays a part [in the Gulf crisis settlement] including the Soviet Union. If the United States participates with its military forces, in its capacity as the largest force taking part in this alliance, we are extremely grateful to it for doing so. The Soviet Union, however, has also taken part in this issue through its vote and participation regarding the UNSC resolutions. True, the United States forces form the biggest number in men and equipment, but this does not mean that others such as France, Britain, our brothers from Egypt and Syria, as well as the Gulf states and other countries did not also take part. But out of fairness, the United States has shouldered the biggest share of responsibility in this matter.

Regarding linkage between the Palestinian and Kuwaiti issues, Shaykh Sabah al-Ahmad said I believe there is no linkage between the two issues. The Palestinian issue took place a long time ago, contrary to the Kuwaiti crisis.

Therefore, the subject is radically different. Kuwait is a member of the United Nations and the Arab League as well as all the international and regional establishments. Palestine, when the Palestinian issue began, was neither a member nor a state. Therefore, as much as we are totally concerned and will fight in order to restore the West Bank and Gaza to their owners in Palestine, we at the same time say that the matter differs and that there is no linkage. We cannot measure the Iraqi occupation of Kuwait against Israel's occupation of the occupied Arab territory. Our efforts to regain the occupied territory were going on before the Iraqi invasion and will continue; we are serious with regard to solving the Palestinian question.

Regarding a question about the launching of Iraqi Scud missiles on Israel and Saudi Arabia—and that may shorten distances between the Gulf states and Israel—and whether events can lead to Kuwait's recognition of Israel, he said if the Scud makes us recognize Israel, then there is nothing good in the Scud, and therefore I would like to clarify this issue: It is not the Scud that will make us recognize Israel or make the region recognize Israel. The Scud has become an ordinary weapon which falls as other weapons fall. All that we want to say is that we are interested in a just and honorable peace in the region; the essence of the issue is the Palestinian question. There will be a unanimity that the Palestinian question should have priority after the Gulf is settled, and that there should be an international peace conference where total attention is devoted to the Palestinian question. Therefore, I beg that we should not mix the recognition of Israel with the Scud launchings.

Regarding the return of Palestinians to Kuwait, he said that, despite what our Palestinian brothers did which harmed their Kuwaiti brothers, we should differentiate between the Palestinian leadership and the Palestinians as Palestinians.

Regarding the reconstruction of Kuwait, he said that contracts have actually been concluded with 80 companies, including Indian companies, but all this falls within a three-month emergency plan which encompasses food, medicine, water, electricity, and communications. Therefore, an emergency plan was arranged for three months only and was called an emergency plan. As for the reconstruction, no contracts have yet been signed. Here I would like to assure our brothers in Egypt that what has been done and what has been agreed upon is an emergency plan and not a comprehensive reconstruction plan. Kuwait will be happy to cooperate with our Egyptian brothers in this regard, as we did in the past, and they will have a major share in the reconstruction of Kuwait. [passage omitted]

Information Minister Discusses Government's Return

NC2702164391 Paris AFP in English 1818 GMT
27 Feb 91

[Text] Dhahran, Saudi Arabia, Feb 27 (AFP)—Kuwait's government-in-exile will return home after additional

security measures are taken to drive remaining "Iraqi enemies" from the emirate, Kuwaiti Information Minister Badr al-Ya'qub said on Wednesday.

"We have not yet set the date for our return but we are preparing to return to Kuwait City within a few days after all the security measures are taken and after we send some people over to restore the ministries," he said in an interview with Agence France-Presse.

Mr. Ya'qub charged that "many Iraqi enemies were still inside" Kuwait.

The commander of the joint Arab forces in Saudi Arabia, General Khalid Ibn-Sultan Ibn-'Abd-al-'Aziz, announced the liberation of Kuwait City but cautioned against a massive return of residents to their homes just yet, saying Iraqi forces had left behind many mines.

Earlier Kuwaiti Crown Prince Sa'd al-'Abdallah al-Sabah had talks in Riyadh with Saudi King Fahd amid Bahraini press reports that he would be returning home within 48 hours to supervise the liberation of Kuwait City.

Several senior Saudi officials, including Crown Prince 'Abdallah Bin-'Abd-al-'Aziz participated in the talks, the state-run Saudi Press Agency reported.

The agency said that prior to attending the talks Shaykh Sa'd had visited the holy town of Medina to say prayers at the Mosque of the Prophet.

Kuwaiti ruler Shaykh Jabir al-Ahmad al-Jabir al-Sabah on Tuesday appointed Shaykh Sa'd as a special administrator to oversee a three-month period of martial law decreed by the emir on that same day.

Mr. Ya'qub said martial law was necessary "to ensure the security of the people in cooperation with all the allied forces who helped achieve our liberation."

Kuwait's official KUNA news agency reported light damage to high-rise buildings located along Kuwait City's seafront district, government buildings, the telecommunications center and the landmark Kuwait Tower.

KUNA, citing Kuwaiti resistance fighters, said however that Iraqi occupation forces had set fire to several hotels, including the Sheraton, the Regency, the International, the Holiday Inn and Le Meridien.

Official Reviews Reconstruction Plans, Finances

LD2702215991 London PRESS ASSOCIATION
in English 2025 GMT 27 Feb 91

[Text] Kuwait's exiled finance minister [as received] spoke in London today about the painful process of rebirth now facing his country. Mr Jassim Kharafi, who was in Britain when Iraq invaded, said: "We might have to start from zero. It's going to be very difficult." He said Kuwaitis might have to sacrifice some of their income during the reconstruction.

Speaking at the headquarters of the Free Kuwait campaign he said he did not expect the country to restart oil production—the key to the country's wealth—for six months to a year. But he stressed that although oil installations had been destroyed the underground sources still remained.

Mr Kharafi said Kuwait's cash reserves would not be enough to pay for all the war damage inflicted by Iraq. But he thought it would be foolish to sell off the country's assets, saying it would be more appropriate to borrow against them.

He stressed it was important to plan the rebuilding programme carefully and not rush into it, despite the expected flood of offers from foreign companies seeking lucrative contracts.

Mr Kharafi said a period of military law was "very necessary" to ensure Kuwait's stability, which was the top priority at this stage. If necessary, Kuwaitis would be willing to see it extended beyond the three months period currently in force.

He said it was important Saddam Husayn agreed to compensate Kuwait, even though he did not expect war-shattered Iraq to be in a position to give anything. "It's a matter of principle, so that we do not get another Saddam Husayn."

Mr Kharafi added: "Saddam seems to have thought he could use an umbrella against any rain, but he did not expect a desert storm."

Central Bank Governor Views Reconstruction

PM2802114491 Paris LE MONDE in French
28 Feb 91 pp 1,16

[Interview with Shaykh Salim al-Sabah, governor of the Kuwait Central Bank, by Dominique Dhombres and Marc Roche in London on 26 February]

[Text] London— [Reporter] The daily EVENING STANDARD, which comes out in the afternoon, carries the frontpage headline today "Kuwait City Liberated." What are your feelings?

[Al-Sabah] It is one of the most important days of our life. The news we have just heard has enormous implications for us and for our hopes. It is a day for which we have waited a long time, and we hope that the losses will be limited both for the coalition forces and the Kuwaitis. Our feelings are extraordinary.

[Reporter] How will Kuwait be rebuilt? Will there be preferential treatment for the countries which took part in the war effort?

[Al-Sabah] Some people think that rebuilding will take place immediately after liberation. That is not true. The first two or three months will be the period in which we will have to meet the most urgent needs.

We will have to assess the situation before starting the rebuilding work itself. We will have to draw up an inventory of the damage of the past seven months. We must draw up an overall plan. We will have to start with the infrastructure. Some time after the liberation, commissions will be set up to draw up the essential plans.

With regard to preferential treatment, I personally think it must be given to the countries which really took part in Kuwait's liberation. Moreover, I am in favor of a competition between the best plans at the best prices.

[Reporter] Is there not a contradiction between preferential treatment and competition?

[Al-Sabah] There are 10 or 15 countries which are really participating in the liberation. They should compete and put forward their tenders.

[Reporter] Will tenders from coalition members be the only ones accepted?

[Al-Sabah] Not necessarily. They will, however, be received more favorably by their Kuwaiti partners. We must not forget that we have a private economy whose agents must also be able to make tenders.

[Reporter] Will the United States receive the lion's share?

[Al-Sabah] That is not certain. It depends on the kind of project. The contracts given to the British, for example, represent 22 percent of the whole emergency rebuilding phase, to the best of my knowledge. The majority of these contracts have so far gone to the Americans. But there are also the Norwegians, the Swedes, the French, the Italians, and the Swiss.

[Reporter] How will you finance those projects? When will oil exports resume?

[Al-Sabah] It is very difficult to answer that question when you know that almost 650 oil wells are on fire. We do not know how long it will take to put them out and restart production. I do not think that production will restart for nine months.

[Reporter] What do you think the cost of rebuilding will be?

[Al-Sabah] It is impossible to be precise. Perhaps \$10 billion, perhaps \$100 billion....

[Reporter] Will it be closer to \$100 billion than to \$10 billion?

[Al-Sabah] Perhaps not. It may be closer to \$10 billion. It depends on what you take into account. If you include the losses in the private sector, which has been plundered, you could reach a figure of \$500 billion. If you just talk about the rebuilding of the main infrastructures, it is much less. It will be a sustained process over many years. We do not have to rebuild everything immediately. Moreover, that is impossible.

[Reporter] The government in exile made it known that it would demand war reparations from Iraq. Who will set the amount?

[Al-Sabah] A commission was formed two weeks ago which has the job of receiving compensation demands from individuals and enterprises. This commission will negotiate with the Iraqis.

[Reporter] Is Iraq capable of paying?

[Al-Sabah] Iraq is a very rich country. We are not demanding immediate reparations, they can be spread over a period of time. It could be in the form of oil. They can easily produce 2.5 million barrels per day. They have all kinds of natural resources. They can pay their debt with their agricultural products. Discussions on the form the reparations will take will be held at the appropriate time.

Changing the Population's Structure

[Reporter] Will you have to sell a number of your foreign assets?

[Al-Sabah] We are opposed to the liquidation of our foreign assets. We can so far meet our obligations without giving up our assets. We have built up this kind of reserves for a long time and with a great deal of effort. Even if you take account of the sums needed for rebuilding and loss of oil revenue, there may be a means of finding a financial formula which excludes any sale of assets. For instance, we can borrow direct on the international market or from some financial institutions.

[Reporter] Will you sell your shares in British Petroleum?

[Al-Sabah] Why? Two years ago we wanted to increase our share. It is an excellent investment. Why lose it? It is an essential investment for us.

[Reporter] Will you reduce the proportion of foreign workers in your country?

[Al-Sabah] In this sphere, we need some planning, which is not possible until we have established our employment needs. But there will not be any rigid quotas. We have been talking of the need to change the structure of the population for a long time.

[Reporter] Will access for foreigners to Kuwaiti nationality, which is almost impossible at present, be made somewhat easier, especially for long-term residents?

[Al-Sabah] The conditions for naturalization are laid down by the law.

[Reporter] Will you redirect your investments toward Kuwait itself?

[Al-Sabah] Events have shown that those who advocated investing more in Kuwait or other Arab countries were wrong. If we had not had those foreign investments, we

could not have survived. In addition, we must be realistic. The Kuwaiti or regional market cannot absorb such a volume of investment.

[Reporter] Can your country's political life remain the same after all that has happened?

[Al-Sabah] The government's philosophy and political action were wise. After the liberation, and the restoration of the government and of security, there must be more participation. What we are seeking is a kind of adult participation. The 1962 Constitution recognizes the existence of parliament and the parties. We must practice democracy in an adult fashion. For instance, there are some countries which are democratic in appearance but not in practice.

[Reporter] What role must the ruling family play?

[Al-Sabah] I am a member of that family. The population of Kuwait wants the Al-Sabah family to be in power, and that is enshrined in the Constitution. If they want something different, they just have to request a change in the Constitution.

Ambassador Calls for Saddam To Stand Trial

LD2702105991 London PRESS ASSOCIATION
in English 0911 GMT 27 Feb 91

[Text] Saddam Husayn should be tried for what he has done to Kuwait, the Kuwaiti ambassador to Britain said today.

Ghazi al-Rayyis said that Saddam, who had brought about the destruction of Kuwait, should face justice even if he could not be brought before an international court in person.

"If he's still in power, we want him to pay every penny to us in reparations because he has destroyed our country completely and caused a lot of harm to the people," he said on BBC Breakfast News. And when asked if Saddam Husayn should be tried in absentia if necessary, he replied: "Yes".

The ambassador said it was a very happy moment to see the Kuwaiti flag raised again in his country with the recapture of the capital. Troops, police and the resistance had since been gathering up Iraqi soldiers and arms. Emergency help including food and medicine was also being taken into the city. He also looked forward to the restoration of the democratic government of Kuwait. "We were a democratic country and we will stay as one. You were helping us restore democracy in Kuwait," he said.

Envoy Requests UN Group To Assess Iraqi Crimes

LD2802110991 (Clandestine) Radio Kuwait in Arabic
1000 GMT 28 Feb 91

[Text] Kuwait called on the United Nations to send a commission of international experts to Kuwait immediately to assess the damages and crimes which the Iraqis

inflicted on Kuwait and its people during the occupation period which lasted about 7 months. The request came in a letter sent by Kuwait's ambassador to the United Nations, Muhammad Abu-al-Hasan, to UN Secretary General Javier Perez de Cuellar. Abu-al-Hasan suggested that the international commission should consist of representatives from four specialized organizations of the United Nations, which are as follows: the World Health Organization, the UN Development Program, UNICEF, and UNESCO.

OPEC Asked To Consider 'Special Circumstances'

LD2802114191 (Clandestine) Radio Kuwait in Arabic
1000 GMT 28 Feb 91

[Text] Oil Minister Rashid Salim al-Amiri says that Kuwait will ask OPEC, of which it is a member, to take into consideration its special circumstances and its needs of a production quota which fulfills its needs for the reconstruction of Kuwait, on the basis of the precedent of taking into consideration the circumstances of when Iraq and Iran were at war.

In an interview with the paper AL-HAYAT, published in London, he added that some ministers in the organization hinted in a previous meeting at the necessity to take into consideration the circumstances of Kuwait. The minister added that we do not know the extent of the damages which have been inflicted on the oil installations, and assessing the extent of the damage depends upon estimating a date for Kuwait resuming its oil production quota.

He also said that the damage inflicted on Kuwait following the interruption of its oil revenues amounts to about \$7 billion, and that its losses are mounting.

Ministry Explains Procedures for Returnees

LD2802110591 (Clandestine) Radio Kuwait
in Arabic 1000 GMT 28 Feb 91

[Statement issued by Kuwaiti Interior Ministry—read by announcer]

[Text] In the name of God, the merciful, the compassionate. If God grants you His support, then nobody can triumph over you. [Koranic verse] Verily God spoke the truth.

Honorable sons of Kuwait, dear kinsmen. These are great and happy days which we are living now that God Almighty has granted us victory, and the aggressive oppressors who desecrated the precious land of Kuwait have been routed.

As it expresses its warm congratulations on this blessed victory, the Ministry of the Interior salutes the steadfastness of our people inside Kuwait, who have written with their blood the most heroic pictures of sacrifice and redemption. It also praises the patience of our kinsmen abroad.

It has pleasure in informing our honorable citizens who were forced by the occupation conditions to live outside the homeland that it has prepared an integrated plan to facilitate their organized return to Kuwait in the near future, God willing. This will begin after the removal of all mines, explosives, and other things which may threaten their safety, and after the water, electricity, health services, and food provisions have been reestablished, so as not to overload the basic and vital services which are now available on a limited scale to citizens in the country.

While appreciating the peoples' overwhelming desire to return quickly to the homeland to be with their kinsmen, the Ministry of the Interior hopes that they will cooperate so that they may preserve public interest and the safety of citizens. In particular, work is going on in earnest to provide telephone communications which will enable the citizens abroad to get in touch with their relations inside Kuwait and reassure themselves about them, pending the completion of the return program, God willing.

The Ministry of the Interior requests that citizens wait for a second statement in the next few days explaining details for returning to the homeland.

We pray to God to protect Kuwait and its people from all evil under the leadership of His Highness Shaykh Jabir al-Ahmad-al-Jabir al-Sabah, the amir of the land, and His Highness Shaykh Sa'd al- Abdallah-al-Salim al-Sabah, the heir apparent and prime minister, may God protect them.

[Signed] The Ministry of the Interior

Government Asks Citizens for Torture Evidence

LD2802100391 (Clandestine) Radio Kuwait in Arabic
0822 GMT 28 Feb 91

[Unscheduled Announcement]

[Text] The Kuwaiti Government asks the honorable citizens, in case they find any records or official documents, photographs, or any other records of torture to which our honorable citizens were subjected by the Iraqi regime, to hand them over to the competent parties of the state.

Troops Raise Flags Over Embassies in Capital

Egypt Cheered

NC2702123291 Cairo Domestic Service in Arabic
1129 GMT 27 Feb 91

[Unscheduled announcement]

[Text] A military source at the [Armed Forces] General Command has stated that the Egyptian troops in the northern and western axes, in cooperation with the

fraternal Saudi and Kuwaiti Armed Forces, have continued their advance inside the Kuwaiti capital after overcoming many pockets of resistance.

The Egyptian troops hoisted the Egyptian flag over the Egyptian Embassy building in the Kuwaiti capital, amid cheers from the Kuwaiti people. They cheered in salute of the Egyptian Armed Forces and in appreciation for the position of Egypt and President Mubarak.

Qatari Forces Hailed

NC2702183491 Manama WAKH in Arabic 1820 GMT
27 Feb 91

[Text] Kuwait, 27 Feb (WAKH)—The Qatari Armed Forces units taking part in the joint and allied forces military operation to liberate the State of Kuwait entered the Kuwaiti capital today.

The QATARI NEWS AGENCY reports that these units raised the Qatari flag over the Qatari Embassy building in downtown Kuwait as Kuwaiti citizens cheered

UAE Commander Raises Flag

NC2702185391 Manama WAKH in Arabic 1824 GMT
27 Feb 91

[Text] Abu Dhabi, 27 Feb (WAKH)—The commander of the Armed Forces units of the United Arab Emirates [UAE] taking part in the operation to liberate the State of Kuwait today raised the UAE flag over the building housing its embassy in Kuwait.

According to the EMIRATES NEWS AGENCY, a source in the UAE Foreign Ministry has stated that the UAE ambassador to Kuwait is expected to return to his post within the next few days.

Egypt Commander Moves Command Post to Kuwait

NC2602225591 Cairo MENA in Arabic 2140 GMT
26 Feb 91

[Text] Kuwait City, 26 Feb (MENA)—From 'Adil 'Abd-al-'Aziz, MENA military correspondent: Major General Salah Halabi, commander of the Egyptian troops in Saudi Arabia, inspected the Egyptian troops stationed at forward posts today and was reassured on the progress of operations. He also [word indistinct] the plan drawn up for the third day of the ground offensive operations designed to liberate Kuwait.

Today, Maj. Gen. Halabi went to a forward command post in Kuwaiti territory for the first time.

Radio Urges Iraqi Troops To Surrender

LD2802064491 (Clandestine) Radio Kuwait in Arabic
0541 GMT 28 Feb 91

[Text] We address this call to the Iraqi soldiers who are in Kuwait:

If you can hear us, be aware that the war is about to end and the victory, as you can see, belongs to the alliance against the Iraqi regime. Do not be wretched. Surrender and you will be accorded respect and appreciation by your brothers in religion, Arabism, and abode. Take your hands off our civilian people in Kuwait, because it is against the military code of honor to attack unarmed civilians, and it is not manly to conquer those who are not carrying weapons. We urge you to refrain from any abnormal acts or those which are contrary to the treatment of civilians during war, against Kuwaiti civilians.

You may be certain that we know by name the criminals who specialized in torturing our daughters and sons. It would be more appropriate for you to give those criminals their just desserts, and to stop them. They are the same gangs which keep a watch on you within the Iraqi Army. They are the same intelligence groups which subjugated your people before subjugating our people. You will then find respect. History will record a good name for you and forgive you for the offenses of the occupation.

Come, O soldiers of Iraq, reject what the torture gangs are doing to the troops [murabitun]. We expect military commanders, who undoubtedly can hear us better than their soldiers, to stop that kind of behavior, and to order the units to treat civilians well and to reject orders from the center [markaz], which is not suffering and does not know the true state they are in.

Paper Urges Saddam Be Tried As War Criminal

PM2702150691 London SAWT AL-KUWAIT
AL-DUWALI in Arabic 26 Feb 91 p 1

[Muhammad al-Rumayhi article: "If an Animal Stumbles on the Banks of the Euphrates"]

[Text] Can Kuwait be liberated—which most certainly will happen—and Saddam remain in power in Iraq? Would the Arabs, Muslims, and the world agree to pay that heavy price—in terms of blood, resources, and battles—in order for the tyrant to retain his regime, which is responsible for all these crimes?

Do these questions lie within the context of Iraq's internal affairs? Is the world—and especially the Arabs, Muslims, and Kuwaitis—not interested in who is in power in Iraq and what sort of regime exists there?

'Umar Bin-al-Khattab [second caliph] said: "By God, if an animal stumbles on the banks of the Euphrates, I would be responsible for it." 'Umar was in the Arabian Peninsula, and although his era has passed, the forces of international law, which have shouldered the burden of imposing right and repulsing falsehood, have a UN authorization represented by 12 resolutions. The first condemns the aggression against Kuwait and calls for the aggressive forces' immediate withdrawal. The 10th resolution, issued 29 October, states that the regime in Iraq is to be held responsible for war and economic losses. The last one, issued 29 November, allows the states

cooperating with Kuwait to "use all necessary means to support and implement all the resolutions adopted by the Security Council on Kuwait."

While the new world order authorizes the forces of international law to compel the Iraqi regime to pay for war damages and economic losses, Arabs and Muslims—and, first and foremost, the Kuwaitis—will not be content with just demanding compensation for all these huge losses. They will not be content because what Saddam has inflicted on them and taken away from them cannot be compensated for. The thousands of martyrs, maimed people, and tortured detainees cannot be compensated for except through an international court that would try the head of the regime and his supporters as war criminals according to the law of "an eye for an eye and a tooth for a tooth." Unless such a trial is held and that oppressive regime is toppled, the Arabs' and Muslims' wounds will not heal. Saddam's remaining as leader of his regime would perpetuate a rule and a precedent for dealings between states and peoples based on treachery, murder, invasion, torture, and the massacre of unarmed civilians. He would then again brandish slogans about great victories, "the mother of battles," and "the conquest of conquests."

Although wars are always ugly and present grim and terrifying pictures—especially when they coincide with cries such as those broadcast by Baghdad radio on Saddam Husayn's behalf saying, "Kill them, crush them"—there are those who carry out these orders against civilians among our kinfolk inside Kuwait. Nevertheless, from within this inferno new values emerge like wild flowers. You can sense them in the statements of such true knights as Prince Khalid Bin-Sultan, commander of the Joint Forces and the Theater of Operations. He tells the forces: "Show compassion to the wounded, sympathy to the prisoners, and mercy to the elderly, women, and children. I warn you not to destroy agriculture and stock farming. Do not steal or plunder. Let your qualities be those of noble men and your fighting that of knights."

War has its rules, values, and honor. When someone decides to breach these values, killing unarmed civilians, destroying agriculture and stock farming, and treacherously invading others, once he is defeated he cannot be treated as prisoner of war; he must be treated as a war criminal. His due place and punishment are well known. We will implement this punishment with our own hands and with those of the people of Iraq and the Arab peninsula—because the war to liberate Kuwait must be complemented by the freeing of Iraq and the peoples of the entire region from that tyrant's claws.

Oman

Omani Minister Returns From Tehran Visit

NC2202191091 Manama WAKH in Arabic 1440 GMT
22 Feb 91

[Text] Tehran, 22 Feb (WAKH)—Yusuf Bin-al-'Alawi Bin-'Abdallah, Omani minister of state for foreign

affairs, and the delegation accompanying him returned to Muscat from Tehran this evening following a two-day official visit to Iran.

The Omani minister's centered on the Gulf war developments and on ways to achieve peace and security in the region. They also involved consultations on postwar [word indistinct] arrangements.

Qatar

Amir Congratulates Kuwaiti Ruler, Saudi King

NC2702190291 Manama WAKH in Arabic 1826 GMT
27 Feb 91

[Text] Doha, 27 Feb (WAKH)—Qatari Amir His Highness Shaykh Khalifah Bin-Hamad Al Thani telephoned Kuwaiti Amir His Highness Shaykh Jabir al-Ahmad al-Sabah this evening to congratulate him on Kuwait's liberation from Iraqi occupation and the restoration of its freedom. Kuwait is again a free and independent state that can take its natural place in the Arab march and play its role in establishing peace and security in the region and the world.

The Qatari amir also telephoned King Fahd Bin-'Abd-al-'Aziz, custodian of the two holy mosques and king of Saudi Arabia. The QATARI NEWS AGENCY reported that the two leaders exchanged congratulations on Kuwait's liberation from Iraqi occupation and its just return to its legitimate owners. The agency added that His Highness Shaykh Khalifah Bin-Hamad Al Thani expressed his deep appreciation for the courageous stand taken by the Saudi king in confronting the Iraqi aggression and praised Saudi Arabia's role in liberating Kuwait. The two leaders also reviewed the latest developments in the Gulf region.

Cabinet Hails Liberation Process Accomplishments

NC2702152891 Manama WAKH in Arabic 1230 GMT
27 Feb 91

[Excerpt] Doha, 27 Feb (WAKH)—At a cabinet meeting held today under the chairmanship of His Highness Shaykh Khalifah Bin-Hamad Al Thani, the State of Qatar expressed its satisfaction at the splendid accomplishment which culminated in the liberation of Kuwait City and the entry of vanguards of the Kuwaiti Armed Forces into the city to raised the flag of victory after having endured the atrocities of the invaders and bitter suffering.

According to the QATARI NEWS AGENCY, the Council of Ministers began its meeting by reviewing the latest developments in the Gulf region in light of the accelerated military operations to liberate the State of Kuwait. The council noted with pride the honorable role being played in the liberation process by the Qatari Armed Forces, as well as the fraternal and friendly states' armed forces. It noted that the liberation process is approaching its desired goal of ending the sufferings of

the fraternal Kuwaiti people, regaining the Kuwaiti people's usurped lands and rights from the aggressive invaders, and restoring the legitimate Kuwaiti Government.

On this occasion, the council addressed greetings to the Kuwaiti Government and people, wishing further progress and prosperity to the free and independent State of Kuwait so that it can soon resume its natural role in peace and security at the regional, Arab, and international levels. [passage omitted]

Saudi Arabia

Fahd Telephones Congratulations to Kuwaiti Amir

LD2802004991 Riyadh Saudi Arabian Television
Network in Arabic 2245 GMT 27 Feb 91

[Text] King Fahd Bin-'Abd-al-'Aziz Al Sa'ud, the custodian of the two holy mosques, held a telephone conversation with his brother His Highness Shaykh Jabir al-Ahmad al-Sabah, the amir of the State of Kuwait, during which he congratulated him on the results that have been achieved, with the help and success given by God, for the liberation of Kuwait from the unjust and aggressive Iraqi forces. He wished his highness and the fraternal Kuwaiti people prosperity and a bright future full of construction, happiness, and success.

SPA learned that His Highness Shaykh Jabir expressed to his brother, the custodian of the two holy mosques, his deepest thanks and appreciation from his highness and the Kuwaiti state, government, and people for the sincere fraternal stances which the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, under the leadership of the beloved king, adopted with fraternal Kuwait.

[In a related report, Riyadh SPA in English at 1956 GMT on 27 February reported that King Fahd and Shaykh Jabir discussed other regional issues during their phone conversation. According to the SPA report: "King Fahd hoped for good relations with Iran and said he believes Iran is thinking of the same.

["King Fahd urged for coexistence with Iran and hoped that an Islamic leadership will emerge in Iraq, a leadership that will be capable of dealing with events."

[The SPA report concluded by saying: "King Fahd hoped that Iraq will adhere to the Islamic faith and respect its Arab brethren.

["King Fahd said he can't believe that Iraq, after all the assistance and support given to it by the Kingdom and Kuwait, will in the end deviate from the path to occupy Kuwait [words indistinct] plan for occupying the Kingdom."]

Fahd, Kuwaiti Prime Minister Exchange Tributes
LD2702220591 Riyadh SPA in English 1956 GMT
27 Feb 91

[Text] Riyadh, Feb 27, SPA—Kuwaiti Crown Prince and Prime Minister Sheikh Sa'ad al-'Abdallah al-Sabah has paid tributes to custodian of the two holy mosques King Fahd Bin-'Abd-al-'Aziz.

In an address during a meeting with King Fahd at al-Yamahah palace here today, Sheikh Sa'ad expressed Kuwait's emir, government and people's appreciation for the stand of King Fahd on the Iraqi criminal aggression on Kuwait.

He also expressed his appreciation to the Kingdom's government and people.

'You have translated cooperation into a tangible action that has been felt by your brothers and sons in Kuwait and all world states,' Sheikh Sa'ad said.

'It was a wise and an immediate decision that you had taken, which I had as an official recognized its meanings and resulting responsibilities whether positive or negative. Moreover, you have never hesitated over taking this decision which reflected your conviction that this Iraqi heinous aggression on your second country, Kuwait, had demonstrated the greed of the ruler of Baghdad and his expansionist intentions not in Kuwait alone but in all Gulf Cooperation Council [GCC] countries,' Sheikh Sa'ad said.

Sheikh Sa'ad highlighted the plight of the Kuwaiti people who suffered from torture and atrocities when they refused to cooperate with the Iraqi authorities and subject themselves before the Iraqi troops because they had felt that they were not alone as long as their brothers came to their help and support to eject the invaders.

Sheikh Sa'ad said Kuwaiti women, men, old or youth, will never forget the stand of the neighbouring countries in general and the Kingdom in particular.

Sheikh Sa'ad said the Kuwaiti people have learned many lessons and relations between the Kingdom and Kuwait will witness greater cooperation and cohesion as well as greater unity, integrity and consultations over all issues and in all military, economic, political and security fields.

Sheikh Sa'ad once again conveyed thanks and appreciation of the Kuwaiti emir, government and people to King Fahd and wished him good health.

For his part King Fahd said the Kingdom and Kuwait have established intimate relations over long years and days have proved that these relations have been spotless and that the latest events have made them more closer and cohesive.

King Fahd noted the deep-rooted relations that exist between Saudi and Kuwaiti families.

King Fahd hailed the steadfastness of the Kuwaiti people in defence of their Islamic faith in the first place and their home country in the second and noted their cohesion around their leadership.

King Fahd exposed the expansionist plan of the Iraqi tyrant who planned to swallow Kuwait, then the Kingdom, Bahrain, Qatar, the United Arab Emirates and Oman.

King Fahd noted also the plan of the Iraqi ruler to dominate the whole region and hoped that the Iraqi people will understand that tyrants of this type can't develop or lead a country to shores of peace.

King Fahd said the stand of the Kingdom and Kuwait during the Iraq-Iran war had not been directed against Iran, but no more than to save Iraq.

King Fahd hoped for good relations with Iran and said he believes Iran is thinking of the same.

King Fahd urged for coexistence with Iran and hoped that an Islamic leadership will emerge in Iraq, a leadership that will be capable of dealing with events.

'What is needed most is coexistence and respect because the world is developing and the concept is also developing and independent countries should not be adjudged by the number of their population. If this is to be the measure, the peoples' China, which is the biggest world country in terms of population, should be considered the biggest country in the world,' King Fahd said.

King Fahd hoped that Iraq will adhere to the Islamic faith and respect its Arab brethren.

King Fahd said he can't believe that Iraq, after all the assistance and support given to it by the Kingdom and Kuwait, will in the end deviate from the path to occupy Kuwait [words indistinct] plan for occupying the Kingdom.

Praise be to the almighty God for the victory, King Fahd said and expressed his delight over the hoisting of the Kuwaiti flag anew in the Kuwait City.

King Fahd recounted the painful months which have passed and had appeared to be like tens of years.

The victory, King Fahd, said showed the respect which the Kingdom and Kuwait receive in the world and admonished some of the Arab countries which sided with Iraq during its unjust occupation of Kuwait.

Instead of siding with Kuwait, it has been better if they had mediated to resolve the crisis.

King, Egypt's Mubarak Consult Via Telephone
NC2802001491 Cairo MENA in Arabic 2353 GMT
27 Feb 91

[Text] Riyadh, 27 Feb (MENA)—King Fahd Ibn-'Abd-al-'Aziz, the custodian of the two holy mosques,

telephoned President Muhammad Husni Mubarak tonight as part of continuous consultations to discuss Arab and world developments and the achievements of the Desert Storm operation to liberate Kuwait. They also discussed some issues of joint concern.

Riyadh Supports Bush Ceasefire Declaration

*LD2802044191 Riyadh SPA in Arabic 0420 GMT
28 Feb 91*

[Text] Riyadh, 28 Feb (SPA)—A responsible source at dawn Thursday made the following statement to SPA:

On the basis of what was related to King Fahd Bin-'Abd-al-'Aziz Al Sa'ud, the custodian of the two holy mosques, from the U.S. White House by His Royal Highness Prince Bandar Bin-Sultan, ambassador of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia to the United States, during a telephone conversation at 0500 [0200 GMT] today, Thursday 28 February 1991, and on the basis of an understanding previously reached with U.S. President George Bush and the subsequent speech addressed by his excellency at an early hour this morning regarding a ceasefire and the end [inha'] of fighting between the Joint Forces and the Iraqi forces as of 0500 GMT, 0800 in the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, the Kingdom's government would like to announce its support and commitment to a ceasefire in accordance with the conditions announced by President Bush and at the time specified.

Communique 40 Reviews Coalition Force Operations

*LD2702223991 Riyadh SPA in Arabic 1847 GMT
27 Feb 91*

[Military Communique No. 40 issued by the of the Joint Forces and the Theater of Operations command in Riyadh on 27 Feb; read by Colonel Ahmad al-Rabya'n]

[Text] Riyadh, 27 Feb (SPA)—In the name of God, the merciful, the compassionate. On that day the believers shall rejoice with the help of God; he helps whom he will, and he is exalted in might most merciful. [Koranic verse]

Military Communique No. 40 issued by the command of the Joint Forces and the Theatre of Operations in Riyadh the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia.

The 42d day of Operation Desert Storm, dated 13 Sha'ban 1411 AH, corresponding to 27 February 1991.

With God's help and guidance and as stated at noon today by His Royal Highness Lieutenant General Prince Khalid Bin Sultan Bin-'Abd-al-'Aziz, the commander of the Joint Forces and the Theatre of Operations, the liberation of Kuwait City has been accomplished by the coalition forces and with the participation of friendly forces, ending an occupation that lasted well over six months.

Our forces succeeded in entering and securing Kuwait City.

These forces belong to:

Forces of the eastern area under the command of Staff Lieutenant general Sultan Bin-'Adi al-Mitayri, which consist of units of the Saudi Armed Forces, units of the Kuwaiti forces under the command of Staff Colonel Fu'ad Haddad, UAE forces under the command of Staff Lieutenant Colonel Hilal Bin Zayd, Bahraini forces under the command of Staff Lieutenant Colonel Fahd Bin Salim al-Ghunaym; Qatari forces under the command of Staff Lieutenant Colonel Hamad Bin 'Al-'Attayyiah, and Omani forces under the command of Lieutenant Colonel Humayd Bin Nasir Salim;

2. The forces of the northern region under the command of Lieutenant General Sulayman Bin-'Abdallah al-Wahib, composed of units from: Egyptian forces under the command of Staff Lieutenant General Salah 'Atiah Halabi, Syrian forces under the command of Staff Lieutenant General 'Ali Habib, Saudi and Kuwaiti Armed Forces under the command of Lieutenant General Turki Bin Hudayjan al-Nafi'.

The Kuwaiti forces are also under the command of Staff Colonel Khalid Bin Fahd al-Rudayni and Staff Colonel Salim Mas'ud Surur.

Forces from fraternal Arab and Islamic states have participated in the liberation of Kuwait through their participation in the protection of sensitive positions and important rear areas.

A unit from our forces raised the flag of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia at the Embassy of the custodian of the two holy mosques in Kuwait City.

A unit from the Saudi Royal Marines took positions at King Sa'ud harbor at 1000 this morning and started to clear the mines in order to secure the coast and supply lines from any act of aggression or sabotage.

In intermittent clashes during the past 24 hours, the American forces destroyed more than 100 T-72 tanks and T-55 tanks as well as a number of vehicles including troop carriers and armored vehicles.

The British forces have destroyed between 150 and 200 tanks and 100 armored vehicles.

The number of sorties flown by the Coalition Forces since the start of Operation Desert Storm are well over 106,000, out of which our forces have carried out more than 6,600.

In one mission, an A-10 that could not complete its mission attacking tanks, while returning to base, spotted a group of Scud mobile missile launchers. The A-10 destroyed them and destroyed 16 Scud missiles.

In view of the quick succession of events and the great number of enemy soldiers surrendering, the number of prisoners has increased steadily and has risen to 45,000-50,000 prisoners.

Saudi Commander Announces Kuwait City Liberation*LD2702152691 (Clandestine) Radio Kuwait in Arabic
1301 GMT 27 Feb 91*

[Text] The commander of the Joint Forces and Theater of Operations has issued the following communique on the occasion of the liberation of Kuwait City:

In the name of God, the merciful and compassionate, prayers and peace be upon the seal of prophets and lord of the messengers. Thanks to Almighty God, who helped us with his support and honored us with his favor, and thanks to the care of the custodian of the two holy mosques: the supreme commander of the Armed Forces, and to the support of the Arab and Islamic states of the free world and all those who supported us and stood by us to back right, fight injustice, and to reaffirm international security and peace, and to the government and people of sister Kuwait, I am happy and honored to announce the liberation of Kuwait City by the fraternal and friendly forces from the hands of the aggressor and usurper.

I call on the fraternal Kuwaiti masses, who are feeling tremendous joy and who are elated by the victory, not to hasten their return to their home, because the aggressor has left many mines and treacherous traps inside and outside the houses. Moreover, the fighting and the liberation and cleansing operations are continuing in the territory of the state [of Kuwait]. To safeguard their lives and insure their safety, could they please be patient to prevent any [further] losses and misfortunes that would spoil their joy of victory and liberation. Arrangements for the conditions and means of their return will be announced very shortly. God willing. God's peace and blessing be upon you.

Communique of His Royal Highness the commander of the Joint Forces and Theater of Operations [Lieutenant-General Khalid Bin-Sultan] on the occasion of the liberation of Kuwait City.

Operations To Combat Gulf Oil Slick Continue*LD2702095591 Riyadh SPA in Arabic 0150 GMT
27 Feb 91*

[Text] Dhahran, 26 Feb [date as received] (SPA)—The center for combatting oil pollution states that today's air survey included the area extending from Dammam to Safaniyah.

A press statement released by the center today points out that no further areas on the Saudi coast have been affected by oil today due to southeasterly winds which are currently dominating the Gulf region. The statement adds that a large slick of light oil one kilometer long and half a kilometer wide was observed today 20 km east of Safaniyah. It says that pollution is still grave in the Tanajib area, and that large slicks has been observed 30 km east of Tanajib. The situation remains the same as yesterday in Hanifah and Ra's Bulbul regions.

The statement says that combatting teams have drawn off 1,500 barrels of oil and water mix in Ra's al-Zur region and another 1,500 barrels in a lake close to the region. Meanwhile special equipment was used for many hours to remove an average of 600 barrels per hour. It adds that additional equipment has arrived in Abu-'Ali region and it will be used tomorrow in the combatting operation.

Saudi ARAMCO [Arab-American Oil Company] has achieved a record in gathering oil. It has gathered 10,200 barrels per day. Thus, the total quantity drawn off by ARAMCO has reached 115,000 barrels.

King Fahd University of Petroleum and Minerals together with the National Body for the Protection and Development of Nature and a consultant from the United States have begun a project to cleanse the Saudi coastline from oil pollution. The university has carried out coastal surveys in Dawha al-Maslamiyah to draw up a plan to cleanse the region affected by oil.

United Arab Emirates**President Congratulates Kuwaiti Amir on Liberation***NC2702102791 Manama WAKH in Arabic 0933 GMT
27 Feb 91*

[Text] Abu Dhabi, 27 Feb (WAKH)—United Arab Emirates President His Highness Shaykh Zayid Bin-Sultan Al Nuhayyan has congratulated Kuwaiti Amir His Highness Shaykh Jabir al-Ahmad al-Sabah on the liberation of Kuwait from the sinful Iraqi occupation and on restoring justice. This came during a telephone conversation His Highness Shaykh Zayid Bin-Sultan Al Nuhayyan held with the Kuwaiti amir today.

WAM [EMIRATES NEWS AGENCY] has said that during the conversation, the two sides also reviewed the current political and military developments and their various dimensions.

President, Saudi Crown Prince Discuss Gulf*NC2602213391 Manama WAKH in Arabic 2050 GMT
26 Feb 91*

[Text] Abu Dhabi, 26 Feb (WAKH)—His Highness Shaykh Zayid Bin-Sultan Al Nuhayyan, president of the United Arab Emirates, this evening held a telephone conversation with Prince 'Abdallah Bin-'Abd-al-'Aziz, Saudi crown prince, first deputy prime minister, and commander of the National Guard.

During the conversation, held to follow up on the current developments in the region, they reviewed the most recent developments in the operations to liberate the fraternal state of Kuwait.

Zayid Donates \$500,000 to Palestinian Hospital
NC2802102691 Manama WAKH in Arabic 0850 GMT
28 Feb 91

[Text] Abu Dhabi, 28 Feb (WAKH)—His Highness Shaykh Zayid Bin-Sultan Al Nuhayyan, United Arab Emirates president, has donated \$500,000 to the al-Maqasid Hospital in Jerusalem.

The EMIRATES NEWS AGENCY said the donation was given to enable the al-Maqasid Hospital to fulfill its medical mission and provide full humanitarian services to the masses of the occupied territory.

Source on Iraqi Troops' Surrender, Casualties
NC2602193991 Manama WAKH in Arabic 1856 GMT
26 Feb 91

[Text] Abu Dhabi, 26 Feb (WAKH)—A responsible source at the Armed Forces General Command of the United Arab Emirates [UAE] has declared that the UAE Air Force has carried out 173 sorties so far and continues to fulfill its duties without having sustained any losses.

The source said in a statement carried by the EMIRATES NEWS AGENCY, WAM, that, regarding the land battle, 1,370 Iraqi fighters, including 15 officers, have been taken prisoner and transferred to positions behind the battlefield.

The source said six soldiers from the UAE Armed Forces were martyred during the battles and 15 soldiers were wounded. One vehicle was destroyed and two others were damaged.

In his statement, the source praised the heroic role of our Armed Forces in the battle to liberate Kuwait, affirming that they had done their duty in the best way possible and in accordance with a drawn up plan to cooperate with the fraternal and friendly states.

Yemen

Aden Radio Reviews Two Days of Ground War
EA2602170191 Aden Domestic Service in Arabic
1800 GMT 25 Feb 91

[From the "Direct Newscast" program]

[Text] Respected listeners: Reports indicate that U.S.-led alliance forces are likely to encounter a perilous debacle in the land war with Iraq. Contrary to U.S. claims that Faylakah Island has fallen into allied hands, a U.S. Marine officer has admitted—and his admission is supported by French state radio—that the alliance

forces were unable to take control of the island. Our colleague, Ahmad Fad'aq, comments:

[Fad'aq] This rebuttal by a U.S. officer who participated in the land aggression against Iraq may become one of a series of future admissions concerning the power of the Iraqi Army, its capability of resisting the aggression, and its heroic stand in the face of armies of tanks, heavy equipment, war machines, and modern military technology. This admission presents the fanciful picture drawn concerning technology's strength and how myths are exploded in the face of people defending their country because faith, perseverance, and patience linked with modern weapons constitute the correct yardstick to apply to any battle waged by any people faced with aggression.

Nearly two days have passed since the land war began with battles filling the environment. These two days have seen the sides locked in battle in the Gulf in a bloody fight which will register heroism and sacrifice for the Iraqi people and the Iraqi Army and will prove how a peoples' struggle and steadfastness can turn the tide of aggressors into a rout so the people are victorious.

No one can predict the war's result or the fate of the aggression against Iraq. What cannot be doubted, however, is that by virtue of their heroic resistance, the Iraqi people have succeeded in setting a shining example of the peoples' power to resist aggression and to stand firm against any force, regardless of its greatness. Thus today, as the Iraqi people stand in the defensive trench, they arouse admiration and praise of all struggling peoples and boundless Arab support. The Arabs must at least (?aid) Iraq, which now stands alone heroically fighting the forces of aggression and tyranny.

Needless to say, the current land offensive against Iraq is an aggressive and criminal act because it came when Arab and international efforts had not reached a peaceful solution to the Gulf crisis. Moreover, at the time, this crisis reached the point of being a violation of the Security Council resolutions on the crisis. [sentence as heard] The attack was made to achieve U.S. aims which are clearly to destroy Iraq's military and economic potentials, end its development and civilization, and create the final conditions for imposing imperial control and hegemony in the region to enable the Zionist entity to dictate terms in all matters concerning the Palestinian problem.

For this reason, the essence of the land offensive launched by the alliance forces against Iraq and the dimensions of this offensive have attracted the extreme condemnation of Arab and peace-loving peoples. The peace-loving peoples of the world must rise to their responsibilities by stopping the aggression and finding a peaceful solution to the Gulf crisis.

'Aziz Informs UN of 'Approval' of Resolutions*NC2802120691 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1142 GMT
28 Feb 91*

[Text] Baghdad, 28 Feb (INA)—Iraq has declared its approval of UN Security Council Resolution 660 and all other Council resolutions.

In a message sent to the UN secretary general today, Tariq 'Aziz, deputy prime minister and foreign minister, requested that this Iraqi approval be conveyed to all the Security Council members and distributed as a document of the council. The following is the text of the message sent by Tariq 'Aziz to the UN secretary general:

Your Excellency, I have the honor to notify you officially that the Iraqi Government agrees to fully comply [al-imtithal] with Resolution 660 and all other Security Council resolutions.

Please convey this message to the Security Council members and guarantee its distribution as a council document.

Please accept by respects.

Military Spokesman's Statement on Cease-Fire*NC2802083591 Baghdad Domestic Service in Arabic
0806 GMT 28 Feb 91*

[Statement by military spokesman]

[Text] The aggressive parties have illusions about the leadership's decision to withdraw from Kuwait and shamefully thought they could place our forces in a position that would undermine the military and manly standards and values for which the men of the mother of battles are reputed to have in this great showdown. After the series of battles that raged in al-Basrah Governorate and other areas of the land of great Iraq following withdrawal, the believers asserted to the evildoers, allies of Satan, and their accursed leader their great faith and the abilities generated by faith to teach the strongest forces of treachery and aggression lessons that will give them cause for concern militarily and politically, should the fighting continue. Thus, Bush made his decision which he declared early this morning. We are happy with the cessation of combat operations, as this will preserve our sons' blood and people's safety after God made them triumph with faith against their evil enemies. This will preserve the blood of mankind who has been afflicted as a result of Bush's aggression and his traitorous agents. Accordingly, orders were issued to our units on the battlefields not to initiate fire. God is great.

[Dated] 28 February 1991

Baghdad Radio's Opening Announcement 28 Feb*NC2802030791 Baghdad Domestic Service in Arabic
0231 GMT 28 Feb 91*

[Baghdad radio opening announcement]

[Text] This is Baghdad. This is the voice of glory and dignity. This is the voice of the truth and strength. Here the bright Arab future is made. Here is the graveyard of the criminal invaders, who feared that there would be someone in the Arab homeland who could confront their ambitions or look to the future.

This is Baghdad, the house of peace and the house of war if war is imposed on it. In peace, Baghdad is paradise; in war, it is fire, burning the aggressors. This is Baghdad, the house of goodness and glory, the house of Arab anger when the enemies exceed their limits, regardless of the greatness of their gathering. From Baghdad sprang the light, giving learning to and spreading culture in the world. From Baghdad today comes the voice of the truth so that the armies of manhood and courage are advancing toward the greatest and most unjust confrontation history has ever known.

This is Baghdad, which fears only God. Baghdad will not bow its head to any arrogant person, no matter how tyrannical and oppressive he might be. This is the impregnable, strong Baghdad in whose skies the planes of evil are crashing at the hands of the Iraqi heroes who are teaching the whole world the meaning of courage and manhood.

This is Baghdad, whose borders are as sharp as the edge of the sword awaiting the armies of tyranny to kill them at its feet in the name of God and make them an example for the world.

This is Baghdad, the capital of the world. Woe to him who antagonizes it. How lucky is he who befriends it.

This is Baghdad, the radio of the Iraqi Republic and Voice of the Masses.

Islamic Group Urges Muslims To Wage Jihad*NC2702202091 Baghdad Domestic Service in Arabic
1816 GMT 27 Feb 91*

[Appeal issued by the General Secretariat of the Popular Islamic Conference Organization in Baghdad; date not given]

[Excerpts] In the name of God, the merciful, the compassionate. O steadfast mujahidin and patient Muslims around the world: The false masks have fallen from the unjust faces of the infidels. The alliance of treachery and debauchery has shown all of its rancor and hatred toward the nation of the Koran. Here are the columns of the Hulegu [grandson of Genghis Khan] of the 20th century, the shameless Bush, reviving the legacy of the Tatar Hulegu and his armies which destroyed Baghdad, the capital of the Arab and Islamic universe, the lofty and civilized city. Here is the code of ethics pursued by the treacherous Ibn-al-'Alqami [traitor in Iraqi history] being observed by the Al Sa'ud merchants who are following in the footsteps of their ancestor [Ibn-al-'Alqami], who is accused by God and the people. This is seen in their oppression, suppression, and hatred of

the nation of Muhammad, may God's peace and blessings be upon him. The malicious intentions of the spiteful parties, infidels, and hypocrites have been exposed. Furthermore, the rancorous, malicious, and unjust objectives of the coalition of Tatars and Moguls, the infidels, have become clear. [passage omitted]

O zealous and honorable Muslims, Iraq has confronted the entire gathering of infidelity alone. Its audacious and mujahid army has waged the mother of battles on behalf of the whole nation. The lion would not have been left alone had it not been for the nation's failure to show magnanimity. Common sense and religion dictate that it is impermissible for Saladin and Muhammad the conqueror to fight with the aim of reaching the gates of Jerusalem and Constantinople, while the people remain oblivious to the schemes being hatched against them, their religion, their history, and their future. Iraq has contributed its share. It has kept its promise and has waged a jihad in the cause of God in the best possible manner. It has paved the nation's way to eternal salvation from humiliation, subjugation, and lowliness now and in the future. Its people have chosen not to be supporters of the infidels and apostates and lackeys to the traitors. They are now, as they have always been, defending the nation and its sanctities, vindicating Islam and its creed, and fending off the disgrace brought about by traitors and apostates. Is it in keeping with Islamic chivalry for the Muslims to leave the lions [as heard] of infidelity and the animals of treachery to deal with the Iraqis and their aspirations singlehandedly? Does religious duty and historical responsibility allow Muslims everywhere to forget the sacredness of jihad and the confrontation of the enemies of religion and the nation?

O zealous Muslims, O leaders of Islamic movements, organizations, and parties throughout the world. Proceeding from a sense of our religious and historic responsibility, we appeal to you to raise your angry voices and make these voices roar in the face of the enemies of God and his messenger to ease the pressure on your brothers in Iraq, the cradle of jurisprudence, religion, and civilization, and to spare Iraq their oppression and treachery. We urge you to draw the attention of world organizations and bodies to the savage crimes committed by the liars, crimes unprecedented in the history of mankind. You will all return to the one God who will ask you about this. Baghdad the greatest city in the world, appeals to the conscience of Muslims. Will the people respond to the calls addressed to zealous Muslims urging them to extend support and wage jihad? Let God be my witness that I have conveyed the message.

[Signed] The General Secretariat of the Popular Islamic Conference Organization

[Dated] 11 Sha'ban 1411 Hegira, corresponding to 27 February 1991, in Baghdad

Spokesman Claims Victory in 'Major' Battle

NC2802082991 Baghdad Domestic Service in Arabic
0803 GMT 28 Feb 91

[Text] Brother citizens, a military spokesman has stated the following:

In the name of God, the merciful, the compassionate. A major armored battle [ma'rakatun mudara'tun bi hajmin kabir] took place yesterday afternoon and early last night, in which the men of the Republican Guard fought very well and fulfilled a great jihad task, which corresponds to the history and spirit of the men of the difficult tasks. After inflicting major losses on the forces of infidelity, the forces of aggression retreated in defeat and disengaged [qata'at al-tamas] with our armored units at exactly 2100 yesterday. Despite the intervention by many squadrons of enemy warplanes and helicopters, the remnants of their defeated forces saved the remnants of what was left of them after having been defeated and in retreat.

[Dated] 28 February 1991

'Aggressors' Continue 'Provocative' Overflights

NC2802100591 Baghdad Domestic Service in Arabic
0952 GMT 28 Feb 91

[Text] A military spokesman has stated the following: In the name of God, the merciful, the compassionate.

Despite the announcement made by Bush that he and his forces and allies are abiding by the cease-fire, the aggressors' aircraft continue to fly in a provocative way to the far ends [atraf] of the homeland's skies.

Thus, the false ones once again reveal the falsehood of their commitments and promises; however, they must stop and not be driven by delusion. They must abide by the cease-fire without procrastination.

[Dated] 12 Sha'ban 1411 Hegira, corresponding to 28 February 1991

Coalition Raids Subside 'Substantially'

LD2802060891 Tehran IRNA in English 0602 GMT
28 Feb 91

[Text] Ahvaz, Khuzestan Prov., Feb. 28, IRNA—In the wake of the Iraqi acceptance of all the U.N. Security Council resolutions concerning occupation of Kuwait, attacks of the U.S.-led allied forces on Iraqi cities subsided substantially.

The roar of the U.S. and the allied planes, however, could be heard repeatedly Tuesday night throughout this southern province neighbouring Iraq.

Also from 01:30 GMT till 02:30 GMT Thursday, many planes were seen in the sky over southern Iraq but no explosion was heard.

French Division, U.S. Marines Inspect Village*LD2602182691 Paris Domestic Service in French
1700 GMT 26 Feb 91*

[Serge Martin report]

[Text] There is no mood, no uncertainty, no hesitation in the ranks of the Daguet Division. The French servicemen continue their advance and their mission in Iraqi territory, despite the latest diplomatic somersaults. There are two reasons for this: The French soldiers have not witnessed—at least not yet—an Iraqi withdrawal, and they have not received an order to slow their advance. This is why, early this morning, the first combat units resumed their advance, while Marines from the 3d Marine Infantry Regiment, assisted by U.S. soldiers, inspected a village. Here is the explanation by General Janvier, commander of the Daguet Division on the ground:

[Begin Janvier recording] We are in a zone where a relatively large village is situated, but I am not occupying it. We are not an occupation force. On the contrary, we carried out an action aimed at comforting the population, reassuring it, bringing it medical assistance if needed, bringing it food aid if needed. [end recording]

The village, which the French have given the codename of (Clev), is, in fact, part of the first overall objective set for the Daguet Division and several U.S. units. The U.S. called that objective "White" and the French "Princess." The objective is much larger than this little village of 1,000 inhabitants, where the French found a total of only 14 old people, a 13-year-old, and 15 Iraqi soldiers who had fled the front. They had arrived the previous evening, after walking 70 km in the desert. The other inhabitants of the village, warned of the imminent ground offensive by leaflets dropped by allied planes, preferred to depart for the north some time ago. This is not the case, at any rate, for the town of which the French and U.S. have taken possession a few kilometers from there, a town of about 8,000 inhabitants which was, in fact, the strategic point of this first objective.

Encirclement of Guards 'Almost Complete'*LD2702133791 Paris Antenne-2 Television Network
in French 1200 GMT 27 Feb 91*

[Text] It has just been learned that the [French] Daguet Division is now 500 km inside Iraq. This thus confirms that the encirclement of the Republican Guard seems almost complete. According to [Commander of the French forces] General Schmitt, servicemen in the Daguet Operation will not take part in directly engaging the Republican Guard. This will be effected by the Americans and British. The French will give air support.

Cholera, Typhoid Epidemics Threaten Baghdad*NC2802093591 Paris AFP in English 0844 GMT
28 Feb 91*

[By Jacques Charmelot]

[Text] Baghdad, Feb 28 (AFP)—Cholera and typhoid epidemics are threatening Baghdad, as residents here grapple with an acute shortage of clean water, officials have said. They have also reported deaths linked to both diseases although they could not provide accurate tolls.

"Thousands of people are already showing the first symptoms of cholera, namely diarrhea and vomiting as well as fever," Doctor Ibrahim al-Nuri, director of the Iraqi Red Crescent, told AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE. "Many people will die if nothing is done," he said.

He also said that some deaths had been reported in various regions of Iraq although he could not provide an exact toll, blaming that on the disruption of communications as a result of allied bombardments.

The problem, Dr. al-Nuri said, was rapidly increasing as water shortages became more acute with large sections of the population forced to use "water unfit for consumption" for their daily needs.

Water pumping stations stopped functioning with the start of the Gulf war on January 17 and some, officials here said, were deliberately bombed by the allied forces. But most of these units stopped working when power stations—four of which have been toured by Western correspondents here—feeding them were bombed in allied air attacks.

"The minimum of clean water needed per day per person in the Baghdad region in winter is 40 liters," explained a senior Health Ministry official in charge of preventive medicine and environment protection. "Today, in neighborhoods where water can still be distributed, a maximum of 10 liters is handed out per day per individual," said Doctor 'Abd-al-Amir al-Thamiri.

But in the many areas and communities where running water is no longer existent, women and children have often been seen by reporters filling pots and pans with rain water that they take from pot holes or any other way they can. Another common sight is the long lines that form as early as dawn outside water distribution centers.

Even at the al-Rashid Hotel, where foreign correspondents have set up their headquarters, guests are entitled to one hour of running water a day and even then they are advised to dilute chlorine capsules in it before consuming it.

Dr. al-Thamiri said he heard of several cases of typhoid-related deaths. He could not provide a toll nor could he confirm reports of cholera-linked deaths. But both he and Dr. al-Nuri, in talks attended by an escort from the

Iraqi Information Ministry, agreed that the situation was "rapidly deteriorating" and that it carried the seeds of all-out epidemics.

Baghdad Radio Commentaries on War, Cease-Fire

Republican Guards Forced Cease-Fire

NC2802091191 Baghdad Domestic Service in Arabic
0840 GMT 28 Feb 91

[Unattributed talk]

[Text] Ladies and gentlemen: Do the evildoers who took part in weaving the threads of the plot against Iraq believe that with this buildup, in which the evil partners who came from all parts of the world took part, can defeat, humiliate, and bring Iraq to its knees? If they so believe, they are wrong and suffer from self-delusion because this plot, no matter how accurate it is and no matter how skillful are those who have taken part in it, was buried by the bold men, the sons of Iraq.

The heroic army of Iraq, which stood fast in the past, was not satisfied with its legendary steadfastness; it defeated the aggressors west of Basra. The heroic Republican Guards are surrounding the American forces and are forcing them to disengage and flee the fire of Iraqi right. We are confident that George Bush would have never accepted a cease-fire had he not been informed by his military leaders of the need to preserve the forces fleeing the fist of the heroic men of the Republican Guards.

Glory to the men of the Republican Guards, glory to the steadfast men of Iraq. The plot, which is aimed against your country, will not pass. Victory is yours, God willing.

Armed Forces Fighting 'Epic Battles'

NC2802104591 Baghdad Domestic Service in Arabic
0827 GMT 28 Feb 91

[Unattributed talk]

[Text] Iraq will continue to be free, proud, and dignified, with full sovereignty over its territory. We are fighting epic battles for this great objective. We are thwarting the U.S.-Western scheme whose objective is to harm Iraq's sovereignty and dignity.

The conspiracy targeting Iraq and its destruction has never been clearer than it is today. The war criminal Bush and his scoundrel aides, such as Mitterrand and Major, are no longer concealing the objectives of this conspiracy. They are now declaring it openly and talking in an aggressive, racist, and begrudging tone about their crime-ridden desire to weaken Iraq's army and disgrace and humiliate its people, thus enslaving them and ending Iraq's national and pan-Arab role.

Today, as great Iraq is facing the crucial battle, its will to defend its territory and preserve its national soil has not stopped at any limit. Just as it fought and struggled throughout six weeks against the oppressive power of 30

countries, including three described as superpowers headed by the criminal United States, its army and people will continue their epic steadfastness and confrontation of the dirty U.S. scheme whose objective is to destroy Iraq's sovereignty and occupy parts of its cherished land.

Steadfast Iraq will not allow the dirty U.S.-Zionist conspiracy to pass. Iraq was never ignorant of the goals of this conspiracy. Iraq withstood the burden of the greatest imperialist aggression it was subjected to after the events of the great day of the call; it reminds us of this conspiracy and warns of its further motives not only against it, but against the Arab nation, the Islamic world, and the entire international community.

If there are some agents and traitors, like Fahd and Husni, who have blindfolded themselves in this dirty conspiracy and meanly and basely participated in implementing it, then what is happening today exposes their premeditated aggressive intentions against Iraq. They have exposed their agents and characteristics, and placed the hesitant Arab rulers before a difficult test in confronting their people and the world.

The United States and the countries of the Atlantic alliance have bared their teeth and openly declared their designs against Iraq. It was not enough for them to destroy Iraq's force and scientific progress; they targeted Iraq as an independent state with its proud people.

The criminal conspiracy implemented by the war criminal Bush, along with the scoundrels among the Western leaders, has double targets. Along with controlling and colonizing the region and robbing it of its wealth in an organized manner, by destroying Iraq they intend to achieve the plot of Zionist superiority over the Arab nation and make the midget entity, Israel, the only offensive power in the region, with a free hand to do what it pleases when it wants, and also to expand at the expense of the Arab territory whenever it pleases, because it is a developed colonialist base for the West and the United States.

Today, when the conspiracy and its evil intentions have been revealed, our decision is to stand fast and fight an epic battle. We will not be stingy in sacrificing for our country and homeland, great Iraq. Our Armed Forces, which today are entrusted with the duty of protecting Iraq's sovereignty, security, and future of its people, are ready to wage epic battles and show their heroism in defense of the homeland. There is no life worth living after great Iraq. As our Army was the fence of the homeland and its most competent shield in previous battles, it will continue to be what its people, the Arab nation, and the whole world have known it to be: the qualified force to maintain Iraq's soil, protect its existence, and guarantee its future. God is great.

U.S. 'Superpower' Title Derided

NC2802090791 Baghdad Domestic Service in Arabic
0727 GMT 28 Feb 91

[Unattributed talk]

[Text] Dear brothers: The United States, which has been defeated in more than one place in the world, today wants to impose its hegemony over the world. The United States, which attempted to retrieve its prestige throughout the past two decades and sighed with relief after the developments in the socialist camp, has once again lost its prestige.

The United States, a superpower, lost its prestige when it spent millions of dollars to attack a small Third World country, Iraq. The United States lost its prestige when it gathered together 29 countries, among them some of the most developed and richest countries in the world, to fight a country such as Iraq.

The United States lost its prestige when it transformed its army, belonging to the strongest country in the world, into an army of mercenaries and hirelings. The United States, which boasts about liberty, democracy, and human rights, lost its prestige when backward, oppressive, and undeveloped rulers hired it to defend them and their corrupt regimes. The United States lost its prestige when it once again was exposed as lacking any noble values or honorable principles; it is merely a hired gun ready to kill women, children, and elderly when it lusts for blood.

The United States lost its prestige when it did not dare take on the Iraqi Army for over a month, and instead bombarded residential areas, places of worship, shelters, holy shrines, schools, hospitals, bridges, telephone exchanges, public markets, and economic and cultural institutions in over 100,000 sorties, yet without terrorizing the heroic Iraqi people and destroying their national and pan-Arab will.

The aggression on Iraq has revealed how fragile the United States is. Despite its power, wealth, and scientific and technological developments, it cannot enter a real war except when financed, helped, and supported by others.

Therefore, the United States does not deserve the title of superpower in the world any longer on both material and moral levels. Its allies do not deserve the title of big powers for the same reasons. These states are neither super nor big, except when backed by the other allies and agents who rallied round evil and aggression.

The loss of prestige by the United States and its allies is one of the results of Iraq's victory in the mother of battles. This battle placed the United States and its allies in their real framework, exposed their ugly immorality, and revealed what type of imperialist system—the new international order—the United States wants to establish, and on what aggressive bases it wants to set it up.

Resistance to 'Aggression' Affirmed

NC2802070491 Baghdad Domestic Service in Arabic
0613 GMT 28 Feb 91

[Unattributed talk]

[Text] Brothers: War criminal Bush has failed to realize his vicious scheme against Iraq because Iraq is, above all, in the right. Iraq is strong with God's help, people, army, leader, and history, which constitutes an incessant spring and ever ready support.

Iraq owns a rich experience and an experienced will. Iraq is not an easy prey as Bush and those with him imagine. The self-deluded Americans, who take into consideration only what their adventurous greedy souls wish and desire, will not realize their goals against the Arabs and the entire world. They did not face an end; they faced the beginning. The pages are many and diversified and the will, if they ignore or pretend to ignore, emanates from zero and from an atom of sand.

The imperialists have been late in realizing how far they have gone in their recklessness and despotism. Furthermore, the imperialists were even too late to absorb the lessons. They rejected dialogue and peace. They went too far in their intransigence and arrogance. They found out that large numbers do not assure rightness or victory. Iraq expresses, among other things, determination and decision, and the decision means to face evil and aggression with all its strength.

'Aggression, Intransigence' Rejected

NC2802053191 Baghdad Domestic Service in Arabic
0513 GMT 28 Feb 91

[Unattributed talk]

[Text] We are a people who neither accept aggression, intransigence, nor imperialist hegemony. Our glorious history tells our heroism and glory to the world, because we are a people who are defending justice and peace. We fight oppression and treachery, and we carry arms to the arenas of struggle in defense of dignity. We are a people who made great strides in civilization. We have fought against oppression and despotism. We carried swords, spears, and guns.

Place in History Praised

NC2802075991 Baghdad Domestic Service in Arabic
0658 GMT 28 Feb 91

[Unattributed talk]

[Text] Iraq has fought, stood fast, and triumphed. For your benefit, Iraq fought the entire world of atheism led by war criminal Bush. Iraq inflicted on them unforgettable losses that will remain in their memory and that they can never conceal.

The Iraqis, through their endurance and legendary steadfastness, recorded images of heroic epics and high efficiency to confront the groups of evil and aggression, their fleets, and their disappointed armies. Iraq fought them with pride, nobility, and peerless manhood. It fought them with the determination of their forefathers and their souls, and with all the bright images of heroism and sacrifice in the nation's history. Iraq has triumphed.

O Iraqis, yes, you triumphed when you stood with all this vigor against the armies of 30 states. You triumphed while emphasizing your capability to face a showdown and confrontation. You have recorded for the Arabs and Muslims glorious pages in their contemporary history that will be remembered by generations throughout history.

Iraq is the great power that fought with right, principles, and humanity. Iraq has prevailed and is victorious because it fought against atheism with faith, and fought evil and aggression in defending land, dignity, and the holy places. Iraq is the master of all the land and the leader of the faithful and good people in this world. The 30 states of aggression are criminal, barbaric, and aggressive states. History will record all their crimes against innocence, childhood, and mankind. Generations will curse them whenever they are recalled in history.

O heroic Iraqis, you are the ones of heroism, endurance, steadfastness, and jihad. You are the masters of the land and the defenders of dignity and honor and the dignity of its men. May you reap glory, victory, and vigor, and may your enemy reap defeat, shame, and disappointment. Iraq will remain a lofty and vigilant master fending off evil and aggression from its land, holy places, and citizens. Iraq will, through its vigilance and the steadfastness of its stalwart sons, record new images of heroism, dignity, and pride.

King Fahd's 'Treachery' Condemned

NC2702213691 Baghdad Domestic Service in Arabic
2009 GMT 27 Feb 91

[Unattributed talk]

[Text] The deceits of the betrayer of the two holy mosques, the scoundrel Fahd, has become apparent. His treachery in its most heinous form has surfaced. This traitor did exactly what Washington wanted him to do under the plan it drew up.

In the beginning, this traitor pretended to be afraid and summoned the American-Zionist-Atlantic occupation forces on the pretext of deterring a possible Iraqi attack. This was his declared aim and that of the criminal Bush and his allies. Then when the massing of the American-Zionist-Atlantic forces in the Arab Peninsula was completed, scoundrel Fahd began talking about the liberation of Kuwait and forgot his alleged fear of Iraq. He then began to act like a lion and issue threats, echoing what criminal Bush said about this matter.

Iraq has withdrawn from Kuwait and the Americans now want to achieve a new goal: the destruction of Iraq's economic and military wealth. This goal turned out to be the scoundrel Fahd's goal, too. Thus it transpires that traitor Fahd has been carrying out the American-Zionist plan to destroy Iraq right from the start and that his role in it has been a leading one. This is what we have been saying since the forces of invasion came to the land of Najd and Hejaz.

We recall all this in light of what we said before the start of the American-Zionist-Atlantic aggression against Iraq and of what actually happened on the ground. Furthermore, we remind everyone who thought what we said about the dimensions and goals of the Zionist conspiracy aimed against Iraq and the role of Fahd and others in it was exaggerated that this is a dirty, mean conspiracy. With God's help, however, it will not succeed. Everyone who took part in it and inflicted harm on Iraq and its people will pay a heavy price, and the betrayer of the two holy mosques, the scoundrel Fahd, will be foremost among them.

Weapons To Stay 'Unsheathed'

NC2702210091 Baghdad Domestic Service in Arabic
1928 GMT 27 Feb 91

[Unattributed talk]

[Text] The venomous criminals who form the camp of atheism and aggression have released the full poison of their hatred and exposed their ill will toward great Iraq, its willpower and strength, its past and present. All masks, facades, and pretexts are being stripped away today, simply because the historic and valiant Iraqi leadership has decided to comply with so-called UN Security Council Resolution 660, the resolution whose American identity is now, more than ever before, clear to everyone, regarding both its formulation and the method of its implementation.

The resolution imposed by the Bush administration on the UN Security Council and passed by that Council in a display of wretched subservience to Bush's aggressive administration is today becoming a major pretext for invading Iraq in broad daylight and in full view of the entire world. That resolution has also been turned into a justification for threatening the very existence of the Iraqis and imposing the imperialist-Zionist aggression on the Iraqis in a manner that has exceeded any legal principle contained in the bylaws of the United Nations and the ill-famed UN Security Council.

The alliance formed by the aggressors, their agents, and their henchmen of traitors and racketeers, who betray the causes involving the destiny of millions of Arabs and Muslims, has discovered that the willpower of Iraq is stronger than all of them and that the sources of its steadfastness and victory have frustrated their wishes and thwarted their goals—goals they sought to achieve through their hateful forces, their numerous weapons, and their funds spent for evil purposes.

Regardless of the extent of the U.S.-Zionist-NATO venom, Iraq's valiant and loyal Army and proud and faithful people will remain a bulwark that all storms of evil and venom will fail to shake. The willpower of Iraq will remain mightier than their invasion, their treachery, and their deceit. Iraq's struggling leader Saddam Husayn will remain a flag flying high on the mast bearing the hopes of the loyal and honorable Iraqis and their legitimate aspirations for a life of dignity, victory, and stability.

Iraq is not and will never be Panama. It is not and will never be Grenada. Iraq will remain defiant in the face of these thugs who are full of hatred and ambition. Iraq will keep its swords unsheathed in their face. Iraq is able to continue its steadfastness, with its old and young and with its women and children, because God is on its side, because right is on its side, and because the faith of its leader, its people, and its soldiers is based on what is virtuous and seeks what is virtuous; namely, freedom, dignity, justice, and a clear vision of how to live.

God is merciless toward every devil and every aggressor whose heart is filled with venom, whose soul is filled with hatred for the virtuous, and who seeks to impose the hateful ways of barbarism on all humanity. The hateful sides of the U.S.-Zionist alliance will learn to what black fate they are rushing, at what failed objective they aim, and into what fierce fire they will be cast, with the help of God, His assistance, and His will.

Army To Remain Strong

*NC2702180091 Baghdad Domestic Service in Arabic
1418 GMT 27 Feb 91*

[Unattributed talk]

[Text] The U.S. Administration and its Atlantic and Zionist allies are agitated because the Iraqi forces have withdrawn in accordance with the plan drawn up by their command, thus foiling the evil schemes through which the riffraff revealed their base objectives and designs.

They are agitated and astonished at this new reality whereby the Iraqi Army deprived them of the opportunity to swallow Iraq as an easy morsel and make it the target for their rancorous spears.

The whole world has become aware of the acts in the scenario drawn up by the Pentagon and in the corridors of the old British colonial office in cooperation with the Zionist entity.

The objective is not the restoration of legitimacy and the implementation of human rights, because they know that the Croesuses, the agents of the Al Sa'ud, and all the miserable rulers of the Gulf are not the exemplar for the sake of whom the Western world should fight, shed the blood of its sons, or have its politicians humiliated. No, the issue has nothing to do with this, although this has

provided them with a cover for their slogans and the resolutions of their Security Council.

First and foremost, the target is Iraq—its territory, existence, reality, and cultural heritage whose roots go back thousands of years.

Our homeland will continue to fare well as long as the Iraqi Army and the heroes of the Armed Forces remain the basis which the revolution uses to challenge and confront their schemes in the region, particularly the Zionist presence in Arab Palestine and all the plans of expansion that are connected to it and take place at the expense of Arab land and dignity.

Yes, the parties to this alliance led by the United States never imagined that the Iraqi Army could stand fast alone in the face of the largest mobilization of forces ever witnessed. They also never imagined that Iraq could make an independent decision to withdraw, destroying the dreams of the cowards and defeating their evil intentions, particularly after the enemies witnessed how the Iraqis defend their homeland and their military honor on the battlefield.

Thus, the issue this time no longer has anything to do with the implementation of this or that resolution of the American [as heard] Security Council. They are questioning the seriousness of Iraq's withdrawal intentions and the ability of the Iraqi Army to continue to confrontation their forces and foil their schemes, as well as its ability to threaten their agent entities in the Arabian Gulf and Palestine.

As for us, we tell them: Shame on you, because Iraq's Army will remain what you always knew it to be, a thorn in your side. The Iraqi command will remain loyal to the principles it has pledged to uphold before God, the people, and the nation.

Your dreams and hopes of occupying Iraq and humiliating its people will only result in frustration, disappointment, and loss. The Iraqi Army will remain the army on which the entire nation pins its hopes for the liberation of Palestine and for removing the injustice that has befallen its people.

If some of the circumstances which leader President Saddam Husayn explained in his historic speech had postponed the date of the decisive settlement for some time, this does not mean that we have become incapable of exercising our principles and the objectives that are an integral part of our existence and our life. They know we have confronted 30 states of aggression. Had the United States and at least two of the big powers that supported it been capable of confronting the Iraqi Army by themselves, they would have done so and would not have brought with them all the mercenaries in this world and the agents of the region.

Yes, had the United States been able to do this alone, it would not have resorted to mobilizing all these forces

and asking for financial assistance from Japan, Germany, and many other parties, from whose coffers it financed its aggression against the heroic Iraqi Army and people.

They seem to forget that the resolutions regarding the air, land, and sea embargo against the Iraqi people have now entered their eighth month and that the men in the Iraqi Armed Forces who are fighting them have accepted the challenge in spite of these circumstances and difficulties. We must add to all this the fact that the planes of Bush and his criminal allies have concentrated their raids on civilian and cultural centers and Iraq's economic infrastructure. This has made us realize the enormity of the crime they sought to perpetrate, as well as the greatness of the achievement the Iraqi Army and people scored while confronting the conspiracy.

Brothers, the challenge was momentous. You can be proud of the achievement you and your valiant Army have scored. We remain here as a people and an Army, with our heads held high and capable of confronting the machinations of the imperialists and their agents. What is even more important than all this is the Iraqis' determination, which the cowards, despite all their concerted efforts, have failed to weaken.

Yes, the Iraqis determination and its independent national decisionmaking will remain irrevocable in terms of a free and dignified life for our people and nation. With renewed determination as a result of the aggression, the Iraqis, using their minds and bodies, will become more active and will insist on reconstruction at a quicker pace. These bodies and minds will pledge to continue the march, and their crimes against our people and homeland will become additional incentives that will make us advance further to provide happiness to our people and foil the schemes of the enemies and the agents.

Troops To Crush 'Evil Gathering'

NC2502111691 Baghdad Domestic Service in Arabic
0647 GMT 25 Feb 91

[Unattributed talk]

[Text] O noble fighters, God will grant you victory. O people of [words indistinct], God will grant you victory. O righteous children of Iraq, God will grant victory to the experienced soldiers of the great leader Saddam Husayn. No one can defeat those who are aided by God. It is your day, O lofty men. Teach the world what courage is and what fighting is [word indistinct] and the oppressors, [words indistinct] their evil actions. This is your day, O brave men of Iraq, O you who are used to wresting victory from the eyes of enemies, wrest with your patience and crushing blows the great victory [words indistinct] in this decisive confrontation of the evil gathering led by America, the leader of evil in this world. Crush the head of the snake and evil. It is God's will, O heroes, that you and no one else will crush the head of evil. This is the greatest honor God has granted

you [words indistinct]. This is your day, O grandsons of Sa'd, Khalid, al-Qa'qa' [old Islamic leaders] and all the heroes of the Arab nation. Restore to the nation its glories and to Arabism its [word indistinct]. Liberate the land of God's Prophet from the filth of the scoundrels and infidels. [Words indistinct] such greatest tasks. Be the makers of a new bright history of a glorious nation as your triumphant leader Saddam Husayn wants you to be. You are the clear conscience of this nation, its strong fortress, and daring spirits. You are the [word indistinct] and the torch of its faith. March ahead with God's blessing. Do not fear blame in doing right. This is your day, O soldiers of Saddam and sons of our valiant Armed Forces. Inspire his words, stands, and faith while you are confronting the gathering of evildoers, and you will see how they will be scattered under your strong blows. Pounce on them, O sons of Mesopotamia with a sacred anger that will scare them and fire that will burn them and fragment their evil gathering. You are the soldiers of God who have been chosen to uphold His word.

This is your day, O men of al-Qadisiyah, to rewrite the chapters of al-Yarmuk [old Islamic battle] so that peace and justice can prevail in the Arab homeland and the whole world. All hopes of victory are pinned on you. How sweet victory is with God's help.

Enemies To Return as Corpses

NC2402100491 Baghdad Domestic Service in Arabic
0859 GMT 24 Feb 91

[Unattributed talk]

[Text] Spurned are you, O infidel aggressors. Spurned are you, O scoundrels of America and Europe. Spurned are you, O enemies of nations and plunderers of their wealth. Spurned are you who want to desecrate our chaste soil. Spurned, spurned are you. By God, you will not seize one inch of our land. By God, we will send you back to your kinsfolk as lifeless corpses. Your death will be by our hands. The downfall of the prestige of America and its allies will be by our hands.

This is great Iraq, and these are the heroic soldiers of Iraq. These are God's soldiers on earth who fight with the utmost courage and punish you for the fall of our martyrs and all the world's martyrs who fought you in defense of their homelands.

Spurned are you, O criminals, O scoundrels.

'Mother of Battles' To End in Victory for Nation

NC2502103091 Baghdad INA in Arabic 0912 GMT
25 Feb 91

[Text] Baghdad, 25 Feb (INA)—AL-QADISIYAH stresses that the mother of battles and its eternal epics will end with the victory of Iraq and of its righteous soldiers because they have total faith in their just cause.

In an article today headlined "God Is Great, Come to Jihad," the paper says: The war can only be decided by

the men's action and their strong will. This will be entrenched in every Iraqi fighter who is capable of achieving victory over the black rancor of the invading armies of Bush and his heretic allies, the imperialists, Zionists, and those who betrayed the Arab nation and its sacred principles.

The paper adds: The Iraqi Army is the army of the Arab nation and its impregnable shield in its fighting, steadfastness, and victory during this honorable and sacred confrontation against the forces of tyranny, aggression, and infidelity, after which God will grant us lasting peace and honorable and free life, the whole world will respect all Iraqis, and no arrogant American or Westerner will dare to encroach on any of the rights of the Arabs and Iraq or prevent them from building a new era of civilization and humanitarianism.

Editorial Rejects 'Threats, Intimidation'

NC2502122991 *Baghdad INA in Arabic* 1040 GMT 25 Feb 91

[Text] Baghdad, 25 Feb (INA)—AL-JUMHURIYAH has expressed its full confidence in the triumphant armed forces' ability to confront the American-Atlantic-Zionist aggression.

In an article today, the paper says: Our brave fighters are defending their land against the tyranny of the Americans and their allies. Because they have faith in God, this faith, and nothing else, will determine the results of this honorable confrontation in the mother of battles.

The paper points out that if anyone imagines that stupidity propels the U.S. President to carry out this adventure except for his rancor against Iraq, [sentence as received] This rancor, which he expressed on several occasions, sought to block the roads for peace that the Iraqis and the good people in the world opened. If this stupid President, who is conceited because of America's power, believes that by launching the ground offensive he will be able to bring Iraq to its knees, then he is completely deluded.

The paper stresses that Bush and his allies' delusion stems from their lack of knowledge of the nature of the Iraqis' psychological makeup. Throughout their long history, the lofty sons of Iraq have never bowed to any tyrant or arrogant no matter how strong or arrogant he was.

The paper draws attention to the fact that the sons of Iraq will never submit to threats and intimidations. The paper says that if Bush's arrogance has pushed him into making the decision of launching the ground war, then he himself will be responsible for the results and losses of this war.

Concluding, the paper says that the battlefield will determine the results of this war.

Refugees Allege Anti-Saddam Protests in Baghdad

NC2802075591 *Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic* 0615 GMT 28 Feb 91

[Text] The British television network, SKYNEWS, has cited Iraqi refugees in Jordan as saying that fierce demonstrations were staged in Baghdad yesterday and the day before protesting against President Saddam Husayn. The refugees added that the demonstrations stopped when fire was opened against them, resulting in the death of many demonstrators.

Democrats Union To Hold 25 Feb London Conference

LD2502123291 *(Clandestine) Voice of Free Iraq in Arabic* 1500 GMT 23 Feb 91

[Text] The Iraqi Democrats Union will on the 25th of this month hold a conference on current developments in Iraq. A statement issued in this connection in London by the Iraqi Democrats Union said that the conference, which will be staged at the British Parliament hall and chaired by Labor MP Claire Short, will debate the future regime in Iraq and the issues connected with the war for the liberation of Kuwait.

The Iraqi Democrats Union last week issued a statement in which it called on the regime of the tyrant to declare its immediate intention to withdraw from Kuwait.

Kurdish Radio on Saddam's Withdrawal Decision

NC2602212091 *(Clandestine) Voice of the People of Kurdistan in Arabic* 1700 GMT 26 Feb 91

[“Talk of the Day” feature]

[Text] At midnight on 25 February, Baghdad radio announced an important decision by the dictator of Iraq, the oppressor of the Iraqis and the cause of all these tribulations and tragedies. This decision is a turning point and an implicit admission of a major military defeat. This admission was made even clearer by the Iraqi dictator himself the next day in a speech he delivered on Baghdad radio in which he affirmed the Iraqi forces' intention to withdraw from Kuwait throughout today, 26 February.

The speech contained many falsehoods, empty slogans, and expressions that will not only have no impact on the present or the future, but will also make the Iraqi people exhaust more of their potentials and capabilities, which are now on the verge of total collapse. From this premise, we say that we have warned and cautioned the Iraqi people against the rash and irresponsible behavior and actions of this dictator.

We now see that the Iraqi Army and people are sustaining the greatest defeat, setback, and catastrophe of their history. Hundreds of thousands of Iraqi soldiers are now confronted with two choices: They can either surrender with all their weapons and military hardware, or continue the confrontation and commit mass suicide.

The besieged Iraqi forces have not chosen the second option, particularly after Saddam Husayn announced the decision to withdraw in light of the circumstances and the deteriorating situation facing the Iraqi soldiers on the front and also in light of the fact that they do not believe in this unjust Saddamist war, a war into which he tossed them to be burned by its fires.

In an attempt to deceive the Iraqis, the dictator of Iraq arrogantly announced that the Iraqi Army in Kuwait will withdraw today. He neglected to mention how these forces can assemble their members and military materiel and withdraw in an organized manner toward Iraqi territory under continued fire and while the allied forces continue to tighten the noose around them.

O Iraqi citizens and Iraqi soldiers, officers, and other ranks, the dictator of Iraq flouts the sentiments, dignity, and pride of the Iraqis. With this arrogant attitude and losing wager, this dictator seeks to exonerate himself from what will befall the Iraqi Army and the sons of Iraq whom he has dispatched to this unjust war to fight against this massive army.

The dictator has allowed just today the Iraqi forces to withdraw from Kuwait without any air cover, military preparations, or even a cease-fire, nor the consent of the enemy alliance to this withdrawal.

The next few days will undoubtedly produce other surprises, but each time the losses of the Iraqis will be heavier and their tribulations more pronounced. It is not surprising that Saddam Husayn, his media organs, and his propaganda machine depict these successive setbacks as victories scored by the Iraqi regime. It is also not strange that after every defeat and retraction of earlier statements, the Iraqi dictator ends his statements and speeches with the following expressions: Accursed be the lowly, or sweet is victory with the help of God.

Saddam Husayn has led himself and his people into a maze whose end he does not know and from which he does not know how to escape. If the forces of the regime have not been able to leave Kuwait by now, then at this time they are most probably continuing to lay down their weapons en masse. It is worth mentioning here that the

speech by the Iraqi president calling for the Iraqi forces' withdrawal did not refer to the UN Security Council resolutions on whose implementation the allied forces insist. This will give the allied forces the excuse to pursue their attacks against the Iraqi forces which will withdraw without air cover. This means that these forces, if they withdraw, will sustain heavy losses, losses that may be heavier than all those they sustained during the month-long air raids.

While the Iraqi masses and Army are suffering from the tribulations of this war, Baghdad radio continues to threaten and menace. It has also increased the number of songs praising the dictator in an attempt to embellish his image in the wake of the successive setbacks his ideas and military plans have encountered from the beginning of the air raids last month and until this moment.

Saddam has lost all his bets. He now faces overwhelming popular discontent, and in the not too distant future, he will face a rebellion within his military establishment, the dignity, pride, and military honor of which the dictator of Iraq has repeatedly trampled in the mud.

The time has come for all Iraqis to realize that there is no salvation for them from all their suffering and hardships, starvation, thirst, epidemics, and tragedies, so long as the Iraqi dictator and his clique remain in power. The time has come for them to work assiduously to topple this dictator and his clique and save Iraq and themselves from all the tribulations, tragedies, and shame that have befallen all Iraqis.

Rebellion Among Kurdish Border Guards Noted

PM2702154291 London SAWT AL-KUWAYT
AL-DUWALI in Arabic 26 Feb 91 p 1

[Unattributed report: "Did You Know"]

[Text] Did you know that 14 "light battalions"—Kurdish border guard formations belonging to the Iraqi Government—have rebelled and announced their control of the areas where they are stationed, namely, Sawarah Tuka, Dukan, Qarah Dagh, Atrush, Wadi Dirsh [as transliterated], and Zawiyah?

Leaders Comment on Outcome of Gulf War

Shamir 'Quite Satisfied'

TA2802112791 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew
1100 GMT 28 Feb 91

[Text] Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir says that we must return to normal life as soon as possible. Our political correspondent Arye Golan reports that Mr. Shamir is quite satisfied with the outcome of the war, although it would have been preferable, in his view, had Saddam Husayn disappeared from the arena. He added, however, that it is a question of time before Saddam disappears because of his failure in the war.

The prime minister will send a cable congratulating the U.S. President for the U.S. victory in the Gulf war and expressed Israel's hope that in the future arrangements will be set up which will prevent Iraq from again becoming an aggressive monster.

Herzog Urges Removing Saddam

TA2802101791 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew
0930 GMT 28 Feb 91

[Text] President of Israel Hayim Herzog holds a very careful view of the end of fighting in the Persian Gulf. He believes that this is just a suspension, until the Iraqis comply with all of the U.S. demands. The president stressed that Saddam Husayn must disappear from the arena, and added that the Israeli-Arab conflict is not the central problem in the Middle East; fundamentalist Islam is the problem.

[Begin Herzog recording] The question, naturally, is who will represent them, who will appear, and in whose name. Also, the question is what is the future of Saddam Husayn. I must admit that I will not feel that the job has been completed, if Saddam remains in his post as Iraq's president. I am very afraid that the West is about to make the same mistake again, as it has in most of its evaluations of the Middle East so far, and view our problem as the central problem. [end recording]

The president's remarks were made to our correspondent Udi Segal.

Emergency Measures lifted, IDF Remains on Alert

TA2802082091 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew
0730 GMT 28 Feb 91

[Telephone interview with IDF Spokesman Brigadier General Nahman Shay by Hayim Zissowitz—live]

[Excerpts] [Zissowitz] Good morning Nahman Shay.

[Shay] Good morning.

[Zissowitz] Nahman, I understand that we are going back to routine.

[Shay] Yes, an announcement we have just issued says: The public is asked to wrap up their defense kits in the original wrappings and store them at home as was the case before the war started. We are asking the public to unseal homes, working places, and public places. We are thereby canceling the restrictions imposed by Brigadier General Uri Manos, the Civil Defense commander, on gatherings, entertainment, sporting events, and other activities linked to the emergency situation. We add that if there is a change in the situation the public will be informed through the media. To conclude, the announcement says that the IDF [Israel Defense Forces] is continuing to follow the new situation and is maintaining the alert and, accordingly, its various activities.

[Zissowitz] [passage omitted] Nahman Shay, from the IDF's viewpoint has the missile threat been removed?

[Shay] I would be careful, as it was worded this morning in the discussion under Lieutenant General Dan Shomron, the chief of staff, where it was said that the danger has been sharply restricted; the missile threat, the non-conventional missile threat we feared, has been sharply restricted, therefore we made these decisions.

Netanyahu Views Baker Visit, Gulf Situation

TA2802061991 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew
0505 GMT 28 Feb 91

[Studio interview with Deputy Foreign Minister Binyamin Netanyahu by anchorman Shalom Qital, Tzvi Lidar, and political correspondent Arye Golan—live]

[Text] [Qital] Good morning, Binyamin Netanyahu.

[Netanyahu] Good morning.

[Qital] With me and Tzvi Lidar is our political correspondent Arye Golan. James Baker is on his way, he arrives in Israel next week. How many points is he bringing with him?

[Netanyahu] First of all, we will be happy to receive him no matter what he brings. It will be a visit we have been waiting for a long time, and he will be a welcome guest.

[Golan] Do you believe that there will now be efforts to extract from us through political means what they did not succeed in doing by force?

[Netanyahu] I do not believe that is the issue. The immediate issue on the agenda is ending the war. In other words, the fighting has ended, but the problems which have arisen from this war are still not over. We must recall that all 12 Security Council resolutions were adopted by the international community and the United Nations and the allies which fought for them only after the invasion of Kuwait. After that invasion, however, new threats surfaced. The entire problem of missile launchings was not covered by the Security Council resolutions.

[Golan] Will we demand a demilitarization of western Iraq to assure that problem has been eradicated once and for all?

[Netanyahu] I believe we must demand, as long as the allies and their armies are still on Iraqi soil, the destruction of the entire missile systems—the eradication of the launchers and the missiles—the destruction of the chemical network and of the nuclear setup. What I am referring to is not only their physical destruction, but also supervision by the allies, the United States and others, on Iraqi soil, and continued sanctions if Iraq violates the dismantling of those things.

[Lidar] Sir, you are discussing the military aspects. From Israel's viewpoints that is what is needed, but President Bush said specifically last night that there will be a political mission aimed at assuring and dealing with peace in the region in the future. In other words, a mission perhaps aimed at determining borders, agreements, and peace accords. First, does that clearly hint at a linkage? [preceding word in English] He said that during the fighting itself Baker consulted with the coalition partners. Did he also consult with us?

[Netanyahu] Of course they consulted with us, but it seems to me that two things are involved here, and it is advisable not to mix them up. I listened attentively to President Bush's remarks. He said that the first action now is to work out the arrangements to end this war, which for them is the first item on the agenda. The second issue is political. We must stress that from our viewpoint there are still two outstanding issues: lifting the threat which was borne after the invasion of Kuwait and was not dealt with by the Security Council resolutions, and of course, our initiatives and demands for regional arrangements. We have plans, and we will be happy, of course, to bring them up with Secretary Baker when he arrives.

[Golan] Will compensation to Israel for the financial damage caused it by the destruction of buildings, etc., also be raised?

[Netanyahu] In my view there is a clear and just case of Israeli demands, which is no less just than the Kuwaiti demand. If Kuwait has the right to demand compensation for war crimes against it, then Israel is certainly justified in doing the same. The firing of missiles, the rocketing of open cities, cities inhabited by civilians, without provocation is a war crime and the victim has the full right to demand compensation for war crimes. I would certainly recommend that Israel demand such compensation from Iraq.

[Qital] During the war there was already talk about a new order. How do you view that new order?

[Netanyahu] I believe that after wars, certainly after such a far-reaching war—there was in fact an earthquake—there are cracks in the brains of people and nations, that is at least what I hope. I hope that the main crack is among part of the Arab world, and I permit myself also

to hope that the path of the Palestinian Arabs will not succeed; that the Saddam idea, the idea of destroying Israel and of a situation of permanent war against it until it disappears, has died. I hope that during Baker's upcoming trip the United States will seize the moment and exert all its influence on the Arab states, first and foremost the coalition states, to lift what we all in Israel—the prime minister, foreign minister—have always demanded: an end of state of war between them and us, and at the same time, of course, to make progress toward real coexistence with the Palestinian Arabs who live among us.

[Lidar] Deputy Minister Netanyahu, you refer to the Saddam idea, but there is also the man called Saddam Husayn. Are you disappointed with the fact that the United States stopped before Saddam Husayn was eliminated?

[Netanyahu] We never hid our aspirations about that. I believe it is not a desire restricted only to Israel. It seems that his situation is not good because, as you said before, he has been forced—at least according to reports—to seek political asylum in Iran, a country where he caused 250,000 victims. His condition appears to be very difficult.

[Golan] He was also apparently forced to disperse demonstrations.

[Netanyahu] I suppose that the United States has information about his stability, but I would say something else: The United States and the entire world justifiably described his actions as war crimes. If he remains in Iraq, and even if he does not, there is room to consider putting him on trial for war crimes. That is done after all such wars, and there is no reason why there should be an exception this time.

[Lidar] To end, sir, a question which I have already asked and for which I have not really received an answer, the linkage issue. Is that not what we all warned about and did not want to accept? Here, immediately with the ending of the war, the President announced that his secretary of state is arriving in the region to deal with future arrangements, and not only that, but that there have already been consultations with the coalition partners about that. That is a clear linkage, is it not?

[Netanyahu] I do not know whether to define it as linkage. It is clear that until Saddam's defeat or liquidation is achieved other problems will not be dealt with since it has not been possible to do so. I would also like to say that we want to see a change here. After wars there is a narrow timeframe in which changes can be made. The question is which changes will be adopted. Will they return to past formulae as though nothing had happened, as though part of the Arab world, including the PLO, did not support the most extreme ideas that Arab politics could surface? The clock can be turned back as though those things did not happen and there can be a return to formulae which cannot be implemented in respect to Israel and the Israeli-Arab conflict, or we can adopt an

overview of the region and say: What should we do to remove the reasons for instability, which are the armed tyrannies and the terrorist organizations at their disposal. I hope that the United States at least, if not their European allies, learned that lesson and will help us to advance peace and the peace plans we have been trying to advance for a long time.

[Qital] Mr. Netanyahu, you said earlier that you hope the Gulf war has caused a crack in the heads of all sorts of people and will lead to new thinking. Does that call for new thinking also by the Israeli Government?

[Netanyahu] All situations call for new thinking. There is nothing static in policy. It is not our intention to decide on a position and a policy and then not adapt it to the changing circumstances. If you ask yourself, however, who correctly forecast the threat, who acted 10 years ago against the Iraqi threat contrary to the evaluations of the rest of the world, who warned about that threat and Iraq's possible partners contrary to the world's view, then the ones who have to conduct a very deep reevaluation of their positions are, I believe, not Israel but members of the international community, which did not foresee what we foresaw. We see many things and we want to see things change, and we will certainly discuss those things with Secretary Baker.

[Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew at 0505 GMT on 28 February also carries a live interview with Deputy Foreign Minister Netanyahu where he is asked whether Defense Minister Arens' contention that whatever happens Israel will respond to the missile attacks should still be implemented. Netanyahu replies: "I believe that a certain move is going to be carried out," but does not respond when asked whether it will be a military move. He says that if the Iraqi war machine is dismantled then "it is clear that if those things will be done by the United States and their allies then there is no need to remove a threat which has already been removed."]

Ben-Aharon Comments on War, Baker Visit

TA2802094691 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew
0711 GMT 28 Feb 91

[Telephone interview with Yosi Ben-Aharon, director general of the Prime Minister's Office, by anchorman Hayim Zissowitz, political correspondent Arye Golan, and Arab affairs correspondent Aharon Barne'a—live]

[Text] [Zissowitz] Good morning, Yosi Ben-Aharon.

[Ben-Aharon] Good morning.

[Zissowitz] Mr. Ben-Aharon, is the timing of the end of the war good from Israel's viewpoint?

[Ben-Aharon] All endings to wars are good and we have no interest in killing. The issues, however, are how does the war end and what comes later, what the political phase afterward bodes for us.

[Zissowitz] Mr. Ben-Aharon can our joy be complete if Saddam Husayn remains in power?

[Ben-Aharon] I believe it would be good for Iraq and for the Arab world, and of course for all of us, if Saddam Husayn were no longer in power, but that is something the Iraqi people must do. If the Iraqi people, those elements capable of overthrowing him—in other words, army commanders—do not have the courage, desire, and ability to do so, then they will deserve Saddam Husayn and he will deserve them. That is the reality in the Arab countries, which, to our regret, we have been used to since the establishment of the state.

[Zissowitz] But even if Saddam Husayn goes, and it is possible he will go soon, what are the arrangements Israel would like to see in western Iraq, in that ill-reputed area of H2 and H3 and T1, so that another ruler will not threaten us in the future with the same missiles?

[Ben-Aharon] Things are certainly obvious. We want the removal of that threat, but it is not only a question of western Iraq. What is deployed there can disappear today and reappear tomorrow. What should happen is—and that is something we will discuss with the U.S. Administration, which is calling the tune—that there must be arrangements and undertakings, although they would have restricted influence since you cannot depend on undertakings given by a totalitarian regime headed by Saddam Husayn, as long as he exists, of course. I, therefore, say that in parentheses. There must be undertakings about the demilitarization of all unconventional weapons and that Iraq not develop and not permit unconventional weapons in the future, as well as the dismantling, destruction, and external supervision, to the extent possible, of still existing unconventional arms.

[Zissowitz] Is Israel taking into account that there could be an Iraqi demand that if there is some arrangement Israel must rescind the still valid declaration that it will choose the timing and place to react to the Iraqi missile attacks?

[Ben-Aharon] Iraq might come up with its own demands, and not only within the limited area of missiles. It will also try to squeeze out a concession for each concession by it....

[Zissowitz, interrupting] But to go back to that specific issue, if you do not mind. Do you believe that if Israel is called on to do so it should rescind those declarations in the present situation?

[Ben-Aharon] No, I do not think so. I believe that as long as that threat exists and has not been eradicated and an arrangement has not been set up which satisfies us, then we must maintain what has been said by the chief of staff and the defense minister, that we are free to take any action for the defense of the State of Israel.

[Golan] Mr. Ben-Aharon, let us turn to the political issue. Secretary of State Baker will arrive here, probably

next Monday. We have heard Knesset Member Binjamin Begin, and earlier Minister David Levi, referring to negotiations. They said we should now talk to those Arabs who danced on the roofs in Judea, Samaria, and Gaza when missiles fell on Tel Aviv and Haifa. Are you also prepared to talk with those dancers on the roofs?

[Ben-Aharon] I do not think we should deal with that debate and the phenomenon of those who did or did not dance on the roofs. We know that in general the population there wants Israel to be hurt if not destroyed. In general, it is not a secret that in the entire Arab world there is a rejection of Israel's existence, and we should not delude ourselves. That is something basic and is also heard in Egypt. We must cope with the reality as it exists, without illusions. Therefore, yes. We have already talked with former enemies. Egypt was not exactly an admirer of Zion. We fought it and our best boys fell in wars with Egypt, but we reached a peace accord with it which satisfies our needs, although it is not exactly the normal peace we would have preferred. That situation also holds true for the residents of Judea, Samaria, and the Gaza Strip in principle, but not in practice. In other words, in principle if there is a dialogue and readiness to talk with us on a basis of recognition, not formal recognition since they are not a state, but if they are ready to talk with us and they do not turn to illusions and false messiahs from outside, such as the PLO, then we have no opposition to giving them the possibility of achieving political expression in the widest terms possible, to conduct their own affairs by their authorized and elected representatives. That is the policy of Israeli Governments since the Six-Day War, or rather since the Camp David accords.

[Golan] Another important aspect of Israeli policy is that we propose direct negotiations with all the Arab states. What do you have to offer Syria?

[Ben-Aharon] I propose we first ask what Syria has to offer us? In other words, is Syria ready to end the dogma imprinted in the Constitutions of the Ba'th Party and the State of Syria, which is not prepared to recognize Israel's right to exist because it is part of Greater Palestine, which is part of Greater Syria. Therefore, the aim of the Ba'th Party is the unification of the other side of the Jordan River, Lebanon, Greater Israel, and Syria. We must see that totally removed from the dogma of the Syrian regime....

[Zissowitz, interrupting] On the Syrian issue, our Arab affairs correspondent Aharon Barne'a wants to intervene and ask something.

[Barne'a] Mr. Ben-Aharon, you know about the change in Syria's declared position and about historical developments. Neither you nor any of us could have believed six months ago that the Syrian Army would fight together with the Egyptian Army on Saudi soil under a U.S. command in the face of their claim that American imperialism is linked through an umbilical cord to Zionism. There has been an historical development

which perhaps must be taken into account when directing Israel's policy in the future.

[Ben-Aharon] I certainly do not ignore the many traumatic and historic things that have occurred over the past six months. I would like us all to draw the conclusions, but also not to delude ourselves.

[Barne'a] Perhaps there is an opportunity that did not exist previously?

[Ben-Aharon] Certainly, I will invest all my efforts to ascertain whether an opportunity does exist. In other words, whether the fact that Syria is part of the coalition out of clear-cut Syrian and pan-Arab interests has repercussions for the Israeli-Arab conflict, or more correctly the Syrian-Israeli conflict. If there is even a spark of hope, then of course we will seize the opportunity.

[Zissowitz] What about Jordan? King Husayn's behavior toward the coalition and Iraq was also shown to be entirely different from what many in Israel had thought. Minister Sharon said yesterday, and you must have heard about it, that we have no interest in the continuation of Husayn's monarchy, and that a Palestinian state must be set up in Jordan. Is that position also acceptable to the prime minister?

[Ben-Aharon] I can only express the position of the government and the prime minister. The position on that is clear. We never decided on a policy of intervention in the regimes of neighboring states or of preferring this or that ruler or anybody who claims power in a neighboring Arab state. That rule also holds true for Jordan. We view Jordan as an existing entity in whose stability we are interested because we will not be happy, or I would even go further and say that we would not look favorably on an attempt by another neighbor to take over control of Jordan because that could cause destabilization and endanger the State of Israel. In addition, we are looking very closely at what is happening on the border between us and Jordan. Beyond that, since Jordan is so close to us and its population is largely Palestinian, we would like an arrangement for the Arabs of Judea, Samaria, and the Gaza Strip which would also include the Jordanian kingdom, which is a Palestinian state for all intents and purposes. The arrangement would be such that the Palestinians would achieve secure borders, so that an Arab living in Samaria or on the other side of the Jordan River would feel that he is at home and would not fear for his safety, and so that Israel would also have the same feeling of normal life with Arabs living on both sides of the Jordan River border.

[Zissowitz] Mr. Ben-Aharon, I opened with a question about timing. I would like to conclude also with a question about timing, that of the arrival of Secretary of State James Baker next week. Does the timing show that the United States plans to pressure Israel to reach a settlement quickly?

[Ben-Aharon] The timing has not yet been fixed, but it is apparently some time next week. I would ask us to stop

considering U.S. appeals to Israel in terms of pressure. There is no pressure and there will not be any pressure because we cannot be pressured. We are a sovereign state and we want a settlement much more than the United States does. Therefore, if the United States can help, and that is what it is saying, it will find us more than ready to participate in the effort to try to reach ties of understanding, cooperation, and stability between us and our Arab neighbors.

[Golan] But there is a wide gap between Greater Israel, to which the Israeli Government aspires, and the pre-1967 borders with slight border adjustments, which is the U.S. position.

[Ben-Aharon] The problem is not territorial, but because the Arab states are not prepared to accept the State of Israel's existence among them. When they do and say it in Arabic to their own people, then I believe we will be much closer to a settlement, and the territorial problem will then also be resolved.

[Zissowitz] Do you believe that will come about soon?

[Ben-Aharon] With the help of God.

[Zissowitz] Amen.

Soviet Official Urges 'Careful Reasoning'

TA2802100091 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew
0810 GMT 28 Feb 91

[Text] The USSR is pleased with the end of the Gulf war, but stresses that we should wait and see how things develop there. These are remarks made by Robert Markaryan, an assistant to Yevgeniy Primakov, the Soviet envoy to the Middle East, in an interview with our correspondent. Let us hear him:

[Begin Markaryan recording in English] We need some time for caution and for careful reasoning or knowing the situation. From this point of view I feel great satisfaction, because we urged the cease-fire, the resolving of this conflict by peaceful means, and now maybe it is the right time for resolving the problem. [end recording]

Markaryan told our correspondent Gid'on Remez that it is still early for drawing up regional defense agreements called for in the Middle East, but he stressed that Israel's security will have to be guaranteed. He added that the USSR wishes to limit future arms shipments to the Middle East, and noted that Iraq was not armed only with Soviet weapons.

Iraqi Missile Capability Still Exists

TA2802084691 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew
0740 GMT 28 Feb 91

[Telephone interview with Dani Nave, Defense Minister Moshe Arens' media adviser, by Rafi Reshef—live]

[Excerpt] [passage omitted] [Reshef] Is there fear that an Iraqi division commander might decide to take local initiative and launch a missile at us from western Iraq?

[Nave] There were missiles in western Iraq even before this war. That is why the main task we and the whole world are facing, and I believe this is one of the main missions the United States has undertaken, is to ensure that Iraq will not be able to attack other countries, that it could not hit other countries with missiles, and make sure that it could not rebuild its war machine, mainly the nonconventional part of it. This is the task the coalition members are faced with.

[Reshef] What is the existing launch potential in western Iraq?

[Nave] We know they still have a launch capability. Some of it has been eliminated, some has been destroyed by the United States. They have invested a great effort in this ever since the war started, and mainly since the ground attack started. The United States has doubled its efforts to prevent Iraq from firing missiles from western Iraq at Israel. [passage omitted]

Labor's Peres on Need To Begin Peace Process

TA280203191 Jerusalem Israel Television Network
in Hebrew 0500 GMT 28 Feb 91

[Interview with Labor Party Chairman Shim'on Peres in the Tel Aviv studio, by Hayim Yavin—live]

[Text] [Yavin] Good morning, Mr. Peres.

[Peres] Good morning.

[Yavin] How should Israel prepare on the day after [the end of hostilities in the Gulf war], in view of James Baker's visit and the expected political moves?

[Peres] Primarily, we must take into account that this is not only an enormous Iraqi defeat, but also an unprecedented American achievement. The United States comes out of this campaign as the undisputed leader on almost all the world's issues. We have to aspire to coordinate stands—as much as possible—with the United States of America.

Israel has a number of options now: It can do nothing; let matters roll. We have to be very careful about it, because in the coalition with the United States there were eight Arab countries, and they will have things to say. We can try to reach negotiations with the Palestinians alone, or with the Jordanians and the Palestinians together. The main aim is peace. If we pull ourselves out of the circle of peace arrangement, we will be dooming ourselves to isolation, on one hand, and threats, on the other.

[Yavin] You are warning against passivity, and in that you share the opinion of Foreign Minister Levi. What exactly should we do in preparation for Baker's visit?

[Peres] We must come out with a plan. We have to make sure this is a true plan, not an imaginary plan or one that uses general terms such as quoting the May 1989 agreement [as heard]. This agreement amounted to nothing. The reason for that was that we—not we, the Likud—did not agree to the composition of the Palestinian delegation. I do not believe they have made concessions on this issue since then. The Likud must make up its mind. It can say no to anything, but it must beware. I believe that new coalitions will rise—not immediately, but after a while.

President Bush has said he would pull his army out of Iraq. He has conducted an unusually smart war. He activated the economic, political, and military aspects, and was victorious in all. We have to be specific and state whom we want to talk with—this is first. If we want to wait until a new generation of Palestinians is born which will accept the stand of Israel, of the Likud, then this has no chance in the foreseeable future. We have to decide what is better for us—a Jordanian-Palestinian delegation, or just a Palestinian delegation. I believe a combined delegation is preferable for us because a Palestinian delegation will, in time, demand that another Palestinian state be established. I see that as disastrous. If we have a dialogue with a Palestinian-Jordanian delegation, we could reach agreements on demilitarization.

I believe there are two things we must not forgo: One is the unity of Jerusalem as Israel's capital, and the other is that the Jordan River is a defense border and for security reasons no foreign army must cross it. We do not want to rule another people, but we do not want another nation to threaten us.

There is one more thing I wanted to say. Now is a time of favor. It could pass. Let us not become intoxicated by this. We have a very strong America and a split Arab world. There is no Arab world; there are at least two Arab worlds that fought each other. The one that fought with the United States will, ultimately, have more interest in long-term peace agreements. We must decide that this is a good time for us to negotiate. If we wait we might find ourselves back in the arms race, coalitions, and this time with a new problem: Arabs who fought on the U.S. side.

[Yavin] Mr. Peres, thank you.

Peres Denies Contacts With Jordan's Husayn

TA2702065391 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew
0445 GMT 27 Feb 91

[Telephone interview with Labor Party Chairman
Shim'on Peres by Hayim Zissowitz—live]

[Excerpt] [Zissowitz] Good morning.

[Peres] Good morning.

[Zissowitz] The fighting has not yet subsided, and it is too early for evaluations. Still, initial judgments can certainly be made already. One judgement has to do with our relations with Jordan and the question of whether or not King Husayn is still our partner for peace. I would like to ask you this question: After his open public support for Saddam Husayn, is King Husayn still our chief partner for peace?

[Peres] I cannot be certain, but I believe he is. The king has undergone some rough times from his point of view. He decided to cross the river at low tide. Like all the Arab countries and Israel, he will have no future unless he opts for peace. I know that there are many among us who have adopted a defeatist attitude where peace is concerned, but they also did not believe that peace could be reached with Egypt. I believe that it is necessary and possible to engage in a peace process with the participation of King Husayn as soon as the fighting dies out.

[Zissowitz] Did you get some message from the monarch about his readiness to continue to discuss peace?

[Peres] I received no message; I have had no contacts with him recently.

[Zissowitz] But a newspaper headline claims that.

[Peres] So what? They can run whatever headline they want; there is a difference, however, between the newspapers and myself. It is easier for the newspapers to have contacts with King Husayn.

[Zissowitz] But what you said about King Husayn sounds almost like a defense of his position, which the whole world seems to criticize.

[Peres] Look, I am not protecting the king. I understand that he faces the dilemma of how to handle this tough situation. But besides myself, even the Likud has now become an ardent groupie of the monarch, acting as his chief defender. These are really great days! Note all the statements by Shamir and the others: They are almost impressed with him. It is a shame, however, that when the opportunity arose for peace with him, they rejected it.

[Zissowitz] Are the times now more conducive to making peace with the king?

[Peres] It is now time to prepare for the entire process. If the war ends and the [Arab-Israeli] conflict remains, it will feed another war. This conflict will definitely boost a renewed, reinvigorated arms race, in which nonconventional weapons will also play a part. The future of the state must not be tampered with. It is impossible to continue to march forward and yet look backward, with an eye to yesterday. It is absurd to claim that nothing has changed, that nothing happened, and that the whole world is to blame—and yet that Israel is not part of that world. This is absurd. I think a major change has occurred in the world, and that although the Arab-Jewish conflict has not changed per se, it is being waged in a changed world.

[Zissowitz] Do you believe that King Husayn will keep his throne for a long time after what happened....

[Peres, interrupting] Look, I do not dabble in prophecy. He has survived 38 or 39 years, so he has a good chance of surviving longer.

[Zissowitz] I would, finally, like to ask you something about your feelings, if I may venture into the personal sphere a bit. How do you feel about Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir?

[Peres] I think that man is making the wrong moves from the standpoint of Israel's well-being. This is not personal. I definitely harbor a lot of hard feelings for Yitzhaq Shamir for having torpedoed the peace process with Jordan, which I think was an extremely grave thing to do. I hold a lot against him for aborting Baker's move. I also recall that he objected to the evacuation of Tabah and the withdrawal from Lebanon, and that David Levi's vote gave us the majority for that decision. I also remember that he voted against the Camp David accords. It is not a personal matter, but at the same time, I am not prepared to forget....

[Zissowitz, interrupting] But yesterday....

[Peres, interrupting] Nor am I prepared to lay the entire blame on our intelligence apparatus. The problem is not with intelligence; it is the policy. [passage omitted]

[In a later interview on 27 February with Tel Aviv IDF Radio correspondent Dan Shilon at 0539 GMT, Peres says he received "no hints or messages" from Husayn, but "reports—which were not for my eyes only—by people who visited Amman, that the king realizes that it is necessary to return to the peace process." He adds that further reports he has received indicate that "very similar opinions prevail in Egypt as well." Regarding the new Middle East order, Peres says "Israel has been kept outside the coalition of war even though we were the victims of the war. I fear that if Shamir's philosophy prevails, we will even remain outside the coalition of peace" and adds that in Jordan, for example, "some people believe it is possible to arrange things without Israel." Israel, for its part, should realize that with 250 million Arabs in the Middle East, its "clear choice is between peace for the territories and war for the territories." Peres denies that he shares fellow party member Shahal's support for a Palestinian state, saying: "I have not changed my opinion. I think the preferred solution for Israel, the Palestinians, and Jordan is a Jordanian-Palestinian framework that will let us live in peace in secure borders, and also in demilitarized areas, if we return the territories." He says that "a demilitarized Gaza, with the IDF [Israel Defense Forces] on guard to the north, south, east, and west is better than a Gaza under our constant police surveillance."]

Shomron Comments on Retaliation, Syrian Missiles

TA2702213191 Jerusalem Israel Television Network
in Hebrew 1955 GMT 27 Feb 91

[Interview with Lieutenant General Dan Shomron, chief of staff, by Yoram Ronen and army affairs correspondent Moshe Shlonsky on 27 February in the television studio—recorded]

[Excerpt] [passage omitted] [Ronen] Mr. Chief of Staff, the question many ask is: We have not acted in western Iraq; we have not taken action to destroy the bases which fired missiles at us. Could the IDF [Israel Defense Forces] have launched an operation to destroy the missile launchers which the Americans could not have done or did not do?

[Shomron] I do not want to rate the Americans. They are doing a good job. Their learning curve is very steep, and they are continuously improving. At the same time, we are capable of doing a very good job. I want to emphasize this since occasionally....

[Shlonsky, interrupting] Is it not too late already?

[Shomron] It is never late. As long as there are launchers it is not late. I want to say that the State of Israel is occasionally depicted as a country with its hands tied because of a U.S. veto. I would like to state that we are following an Israeli interest. It is our legitimate and natural right to act, and the Americans know this. We have not acted so far since we are attaining enormous advantages from developments in Iraq. As I have stated earlier, the keystone of the eastern front, the Iraqi Army, is being destroyed, and the threat we are facing on this front will be much smaller, for many years to come, I hope.

[Ronen] Do you believe that in the few days left before the end of the war we will still be able to act or do anything?

[Shomron] I am saying that we can, in accordance with the State of Israel's interest. A decision will be made on this naturally. Can we?—yes. Is there still time?—yes.

[Shlonsky] The fact that we can, but have not done this—does this not harm our deterrence? I remember that during the first days of the war you said that restraint is power too. Is this the way the other Arab countries also perceive this?

[Shomron] One should understand that deterrence is a purely subjective term. A person or a leader who sets goals for himself knows or assesses what price he is prepared to pay, and if the price is too high he is then deterred from realizing his objectives. Saddam Husayn is not deterred, not only by Israel but also by a superpower such as the United States. Therefore....

[Ronen, interrupting] Syria, too, may not be deterred perhaps.

[Shomron] Let me tell you that Syria knows our ability. Furthermore, Syria argues that the State of Israel has emerged stronger as a result of the Gulf crisis, also from the viewpoint of the receipt of Patriot missiles, which are an anti-aircraft weapon, not just an antimissile weapon.

[Ronen] Mr. Chief of Staff, the Air Force is clearly the element that decided the war in the Gulf, and the question is what lesson the IDF draws from this: Should we further strengthen the Air Force? Should we develop antimissile missile systems?

[Shomron] First, I would not say so resolutely that it is the Air Force that decided the campaign. The Air Force was very dominant, but subject to our conditions—I do not believe that at a time of war we will have a month and a half at our disposal for aerial bombing. This is true only for a superpower, abiding by a totally different political clock. The truth is we drew lessons long ago. Over the last few years, our power has been largely based on our technological edge, which is the Air Force and standoff weapons enabling us to hit numerous targets with very few casualties. To the extent possible, we are trying to obtain achievements with a minimum of casualties, and the Americans in Iraq shared a very similar objective.

[Shlonsky] Let me cite one example: The Arrow project was launched without the IDF; it began because of one man's obsession, as part of the Strategic Defense Initiative. The IDF did not like this antimissile missile very much and did not want to earmark any funds for it. This may attest to how seriously you took the Iraqi threat against Israeli civilian—not military—targets, notwithstanding the missile attacks on Tehran three years ago.

[Shomron] When we speak about the Iraqi threat, we mean the overall threat, the threat to Israel's existence from the eastern front. The missiles play a very negligible role in this threat, notwithstanding the unpleasantness they cause. Therefore, given our limited resources, we concentrate our efforts on building the ability to overpower this front, if a war breaks out....

[Shlonsky, interrupting] Are you talking about an offensive or defensive capability?

[Shomron] Basically, I am talking about an offensive capability. Of course, part of these resources should be earmarked for civilian defense. However, our main defense—of the home front as well—lies in a fast victory on the battlefield. When such a victory is attained, missiles also stop falling on the home front. Incidentally, there can also be airplanes, not just missiles. Therefore, a fast victory is the most important factor. Wonderful projects can be executed with a limited budget.

[Ronen] Sir, you are talking about defending civilians. Yitzhaq Rabin said a few days ago that we had actually come out unscathed by this war only because of a miracle. The question is: What happens if the Syrians fire missiles in the next war? Do you share Rabin's view

that in such an event the entire civilian population should enter air raid shelters until victory is attained on the battlefield?

[Shomron] I would not like to go into that, just as I would not like to get into an argument with the former defense minister. I only suggest that you look at the damage caused by the missiles, first of all, in terms of loss of human life. I hope nothing worse happens. You must remember that the main threat was entailed in the over 4,000 Iraqi tanks, 3,000 artillery pieces, and over 400 jet fighters that have just been destroyed [figures as heard]. This is the main threat, not the few launchers which occasionally fire at Israel.

[Ronen] So, what happened was actually a miracle. What happened in Dhahran, Saudi Arabia, could have happened in Israel, too.

[Shomron] You can call it a miracle. I think that, from our point of view, there is an affinity of interests between Israel and the coalition countries regarding the tyrant, who is not only threatening the State of Israel, but the Arab countries in the region and the world at large. I would say this is almost a universal interest.

[Shlonsky] You are talking about the Iraqi missiles, but there are also missiles in Syria, which is only 300 km away. These are very accurate missiles, and we would not have any U.S. early warning. This threat is staying with us.

[Shomron] It is. I believe that Syria will not open a war by itself, and it is a fact that Iraq's vast force no longer exists. Therefore, Syria is very unlikely to enter a war alone. At the same time, we must remember that the short distance enhances our ability to overpower the threat on Israel and score a fast victory. [passage omitted]

Commentary Urges Change in Shamir Peace Stand

TA2702122191 Tel Aviv HA'ARETZ in Hebrew
27 Feb 91 p B1

[Commentary by Dan Margalit: "The Confrontation Has Begun"]

[Text] Americans are still dying in Kuwait and Saudi Arabia and patrolling the skies in western Iraq to hunt for missile launchers, yet Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir has already rushed ahead to prepare the political struggle against them. If it is negotiations they want, he will entrap them through what he calls a "sophisticated policy." That is a nice phrase for a diplomatic ambush.

Not that a deviation from the normal rules of diplomacy has not been noted in the present campaign. Washington initiated that ugly chapter with the exaggerated rebuke of Ambassador Zalman Shoval in the midst of the Scud attacks on Tel Aviv and Haifa. But it is not wise to rush ahead with a hostile reaction. When the time arrives for a confrontation with the United States, Israel will know about it even without the early warning issued by the

prime minister to the Likud Faction in the Knesset Foreign Affairs and Defense Committee yesterday and on Monday.

The military campaign in Iraq is coming to an end. The ground battle for Greater Israel has not yet started, but Shamir has already donned his gas mask and closed himself up in a sealed room. He knows that strong political forces will try to snatch from Israel what they could not capture through bloodshed, but it is not for somebody like him to share anything or make concessions.

When he recalled who lead Israel in international contacts in the past the prime minister began to shake. Whom did he mean? His Likud audience would like to believe that it was a ballistic missile aimed at Shim'on Peres. The more sophisticated suspect it was a smart bomb launched at Menahem Begin. To the prime minister, the promises made at Camp David over setting up an autonomy in the territories are just as bad as the London accord Shim'on Peres reached with King Husayn in April 1987.

We are already sick of saying that the essence of Shamir's world outlook is "Sit and do nothing." "No, no," and "Under no circumstances." He does not even have the manners and cunning to say that when the fighting dies down Israel will be glad to participate in an effort to find a solution to this chronic Middle East conflict. He knows how to ward off all the requests to add new substance to the tarnished relations between the two peoples.

The drama to the east did not move Shamir's concept even by an iota. Moshe Shahal announced, which took some courage at this time, that his new plan might lead to the establishment of a Palestinian state; Yosi Sarid has been shocked by the hostility of the Palestinians and Yasir 'Arafat's wickedness to the point that he is supporting 'Arafat's expulsion from the political arena and providing the established Arab states a leading status in negotiations; Shim'on Peres is active in reviving the London accord and is working out ideas to assure Israel's technological edge over the next generation of modern arms the Arabs will procure; and it is David Levi, a Likud foreign minister, who is interested in talking with the Arabs from the territories who dance on the roofs [when missiles fall on Israel] and who wants to conduct negotiations with Syria over the future of the Golan Heights.

Only Shamir does not stand out in that circle. He prefers the company of gray party hacks among the hawks and doves, some of the Gush Emunim leadership, and Peace Now activists who continue to shut their eyes and plug their ears. They never need to take stock.

But when such a curse characterizes a prime minister, it is particularly dangerous. Shamir made clear to his audience, in remarks that reverberated as far as Washington, that he will not permit Israel to be plundered of its new advantages. The diplomatic community immediately took this to mean that Shamir wants to cash in on

the profits he stocked up on in U.S. public opinion and in Congress where his wise restraint during the campaign is appreciated in view of the 39 Scud attacks.

That does deserve a political dividend, but it is not sufficient to issue a threatening signal that if put to the test and pressured he will turn to U.S. public opinion, the media, and Congress to foil the administration's political initiative. James Baker made a brutal threat to Ambassador Shoval in case Israel dares to activate the Congress against the White House. Shamir's covert reaction was delivered to the Likud Knesset faction where he described his political campaign. The sophistication he referred to is: to recruit supporters in the United States in order to curb the administration until elections in the United States and Israel in 1992.

Shamir should, however, remember that the influence of those who support Israel in Washington is limited. They can be used to modify the administration's position, but no U.S. President has yet been beaten on his home court with the help of Congress. The few tactical incidents which point to the contrary were usually Pyrrhic victories.

Official Backs Rejection of Saddam's 'Double-Talk'

TA2602181691 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew
1705 GMT 26 Feb 91

[Report by political correspondent Arye Golan]

[Text] A senior source in Jerusalem told me this evening: At first, Bush trapped Saddam Husayn with the Security Council resolutions. Today Saddam Husayn tried to get Bush by announcing on the radio that he is pulling out of Kuwait. But sources at the prime minister's bureau note with satisfaction that Bush is not letting Saddam Husayn ensnare him.

Avi Pazner, the prime minister's adviser, said this evening that Saddam Husayn is now trying to salvage his army and save it for future adventures against his neighboring countries and the whole civilized world.

[Begin Pazner recording] Israel's supreme interest at this point is to have the Iraqi aggression both toward itself and toward the entire region end. Obviously, there will be no peace for this part of the world as long as Saddam Husayn remains in Baghdad with his huge army intact. It was therefore important to see that President Bush and the United States understand this situation perfectly well and are not accepting Saddam Husayn's double-talk and equivocation. That is why they took a very firm stand. Israel supports this position of the United States. [end recording]

Consequently, any additional step to destroy the threat posed by the Iraqi Army will contribute toward peace and stability in the region in the postwar era. Israel, as the prime minister and his adviser stated, is making no secret of the fact that from its standpoint, it is essential that Saddam Husayn disappear. Any move by the United States and the coalition that brings Saddam's end

closer and destroys the Iraqi war machine is therefore welcomed, even if we may have to conceal our smiles inside the gas masks for another few nights.

Leaflet Shows Differences Within PLO Leadership

TA2602085491 Jerusalem THE JERUSALEM POST
in English 26 Feb 91 p 10

[Report by Jon Immanuel]

[Text] The Unified National Leadership of the Uprising has issued a second appendix to a leaflet which appears to be more moderate than the first one and indicates tactical differences within the leadership over local PLO policy during the Gulf war.

The appendix to leaflet no. 67 was published last Friday to clarify a previous one issued to support the February 15 Iraqi conditional offer to withdraw from Kuwait.

—The first appendix urged the masses "not to respond" to consulates of countries with troops in the Gulf and called in bold letters for a boycott of Egyptian Embassy.

The second leaflet simply advised "caution" in such contacts and did not highlight the boycott of Egypt.

The call to avoid meetings with consulates was seen as a direct rebuke of leading Palestinian activists. Faysal al-Husayni, for example, met with European Community consuls the previous week.

—Both appendices called for an "escalation" of the intifada and for "launching broad activities against the enemy in rural areas," but the second eliminated a demand to "integrate the intifada with the Iraqi and southern Lebanon fronts." Instead, it called for working "in a way which is proportional to the new situation which has resulted from Israeli repressive measures and the aggressive war against Iraq," dropping the reference to Lebanon.

—The first leaflet attacked UN Secretary-General Javier Perez de Cuellar personally, calling on him to "reconsider continuing in his position", while the second leaflet simply called on him to "reconsider the role of the UN."

—The second appendix congratulated the Democratic Front for the Liberation of Palestine [DFLP] on its 22nd anniversary but omitted reference to its leader Nayif Hawatimah, who has recently been under attack by more moderate members of the DFLP.

Unified Leadership leaflets are usually written by one of its four factions in consultation with the others. Palestinian activists were surprised by the tone of the first appendix when it was issued, and suggested that it may have been written by the most radical faction, the Popular Front, without consultation with the others due to the blanket curfew at the time.

Double leaflets were issued four or five times in the first two years of the intifada, sometimes expressing important policy differences.

Prime Minister Views Iraqi Withdrawal

NC2702161991 Amman Domestic Service in Arabic
1200 GMT 27 Feb 91

[Text] Prime Minister Mudar Badran has stated that the withdrawal of the Iraqi forces from Kuwait, contrary to what some people claim, is not a defeat. Iraq originally decided to withdraw from Kuwait the day after it entered that country and the date for withdrawal was set for 5 August, that is four [as heard] days after the beginning of military operations, Badran said.

The prime minister said that the withdrawal of the Iraqi troops began and ended before it was made public and before an official statement to this effect was made.

The prime minister said that the objective behind attacking Iraq is neither [to liberate] Kuwait nor to dislodge the Iraqi forces from Kuwait. The objective is to destroy Iraq's military and economic power. The battle is continuing and the south of Iraq will become a graveyard for the invaders, Badran said.

The prime minister welcomed the spirit of struggle that the battle has created, especially among the Jordanian people who have become eager to make sacrifices in an atmosphere of solidarity between the leadership and the people.

The prime minister said that the government will give a favorable response [tastajib] to a memorandum submitted by a group of students at the al-Yarmuk and the Science and Technology Universities to suspend classes and give military training to the college and high school students. This will take place as part of a well-organized plan in coordination with the command of the Popular Army. This came in a speech that Badran delivered at the House of Representatives.

Calls Withdrawal 'Tactical' Move

JN2802082291 Amman JORDAN TIMES in English
28 Feb-1 Mar 91 pp 1, 5

["Special" to JORDAN TIMES by Sana' 'Atiyah]

[Text] Amman—Prime Minister Mudar Badran Wednesday told Parliament that Iraq's withdrawal from Kuwait was not a defeat but part of Iraq's plans to defend itself. The Prime Minister called on the Soviet Union and Iran to take a firmer position on the U.S.-allied onslaught against Iraq.

"The Iraqi forces withdrew (from Kuwait) to defend Iraq," Mr. Badran said, adding that Iraq had known that the aim of the U.S.-led alliance was to destroy Iraq's capabilities and not simply liberating Kuwait.

"The south of Iraq will become a large graveyard for every invader against this pure land. So I don't want my brothers (in Parliament) to see this as a defeat," the premier told members of the Lower and Upper Houses of Parliament.

Mr. Badran said that the Iraqi withdrawal from Kuwait was a tactical military move that was not the result of pressure from allied forces.

"There is a popular army with more than four million people armed in Iraq," the prime minister said. "We will see who will enter this jungle; he who will enter this jungle will not be able to leave it."

Mr. Badran also called on Iran and the Soviet Union to take stronger positions against the continued allied bombardment of Iraq.

"We need an honest position from our brothers in the Muslim government of Iran after what happened," Mr. Badran said, referring to the continued attacks against Iraq despite its withdrawal from Kuwait.

"We need a strong position from the Soviet government because all the weapons that were placed against the Warsaw Pact (countries) are now being transferred to Arab land and used to fight against one country, Iraq," Mr. Badran said.

He added that Jordan was now working towards a ceasefire in the Gulf. He warned that if the war against Iraq did not stop, the allies would "regret it because there is a lot that can be done."

Mr. Badran did not elaborate, but said that the Iraqi leadership and people are battle hardened and experienced enough to face aggression.

He added that the Iraqi leadership had asked Jordan "to be patient"—in response to the Kingdom's anxiety to see quick results and know what Iraq would further do in the war.

The prime minister, who was speaking during a regular Parliament session chaired by Deputy Speaker 'Atif al-Butush, said that the deputies who spoke at the session sounded as if Iraq had been defeated, adding that he himself did not see developments on the battlefield that way.

Mr. Badran assured the deputies that the Iraqi leadership knew what it was doing in withdrawing from Kuwait because it was convinced that the allies would not want to leave the Iraqi capabilities intact.

He said that those who doubted that the aim of the U.S.-led alliance was just to get the Iraqi forces out of Kuwait have no right or reason to do so any longer.

"The aim was to destroy the military, economic and social capabilities of Iraq," Mr. Badran stressed.

He explained that the withdrawal of the Iraqi forces took place before the official announcement was made early Tuesday. Mr. Badran cited as examples Kuwaiti citizens interviewed as saying that they had not seen Iraqi soldiers, tanks or guns two days before they were interviewed on Tuesday.

"So the withdrawal was part of a plan because of the Iraqi knowledge and conviction that the aim was not Kuwait and that the target was Iraq," he said.

Mr. Badran criticised oil-rich Arab countries for their continued alliance against Iraq, and referred to warning by Iraqi President Saddam Husayn before Aug. 2—during the summit of the Arab Cooperation Council in Amman and the Baghdad summit last May—"that there were brotherly (Arab) states conspiring with Western parties against Iraq."

Mr. Badran described the Arab financing of the war in the Gulf as a "benevolence that we have never witnessed before, pouring in billions in this manner."

He told deputies to count the achievements of Iraq, mainly "holding fast for 10 days against different types of continuous bombardment minute after minute, amounting to more than 100,000 tonnes and 100,000 air sorties."

He noted that the amount of bombs that was dropped on Iraq in 40 days was equivalent to what was dropped against Germany in four years (during World War II).

By its steadfastness, Mr. Badran went on to say, Iraq has also given birth to the spirit of jihad and martyrdom and a push to the Palestinian problem which has again become the "mother of all causes," and brought out the issue between rich and poor countries. Mr. Badran predicted that there will be social, economic and political changes in some of the Arab, Muslim and Third World countries.

"When you see the people from these countries move, it is because Iraq belongs to the Third World and because it does not wait one single country to hegemonise an entire region," Mr. Badran stated, adding that the new order being discussed wanted hegemony.

The prime minister assured that the objectives of the Iraqi leadership would soon bear fruit.

"We spent hours talking to the Iraqi leadership about the sacrifices, the blood, the destruction, the victims, and they knew this would happen. They said they will sacrifice all this for the (Arab) Nation and to change the course of this nation's history," Mr. Badran said.

He called on Jordanians to work and think positively and with hope and to throw behind them desperation, "because to give up is death; as long as there is a pulse of life, there must be optimism."

Mr. Badran also called for each individual to work within his capabilities "to help Iraq and the steadfastness of this (Jordan) country."

War Dominates Lower House Discussion

JN2802084791 Amman JORDAN TIMES in English
28 Feb-1 Mar 91 p 3

[Text] Amman (J.T)—The ongoing war in Iraq dominated discussion at a session by the Lower House of Parliament Wednesday which was attended by Prime Minister Mudar Badran and cabinet members.

Former House speaker Sulayman 'Arar stressed the need to stand by Iraq in its war and suggested that the government seriously and speedily study the situation in consultation with the Iraqi leadership before deciding on means by which Jordan can lend support for the Iraqi people and help reconstruct Iraqi infrastructure.

Ahmad 'Innab, Jamal al-Khurayshah and Muhammad al-Mu'ar'ar presented a joint view concerning the situation demanding that Arab countries which supported Iraq stand by the armed forces and people at this juncture in order to stop the aggression. They noted that France, Britain, the United States and Israel have conspired to occupy Iraq and destroy its military capabilities.

Ahmad al-Kawfahi demanded that the students of Yarmuk University and the Jordan University of Science and Technology be armed to become a back up force helping the People's Army and the armed forces.

His views were echoed by Fakhri Qa'war who also called for bolstering the People's Army and to open the door for volunteers.

In reply, Mr. Badran said Jordan would continue to do all it can to stick to its position and noted that the Kingdom's efforts were great compared to its small population and financial capabilities.

On the House's recommendations to train university students, Mr. Badran assured them that it was acceptable, but noted that this measure would cover educational institutions gradually.

"It is not feasible to stop all educational institutions for training up to 150,000 people at the same time. This needs a programme where two or three institutions can do it a time," Mr. Badran said, stressing his support to such a programme that would be led by the People's Army.

On demands to arm the people, based on requests made by the students from Yarmuk University and the Jordan University for Science and Technology, a group of whom attended the session, Badran announced that arms had already been distributed to most students. "The government is working towards the rest," Mr. Badran said, adding that there were other details he could not specify in an open session.

The prime minister paid tribute to the Jordanian people's effort and willingness to sacrifice for their position

against the aims of the West, saying that this insistence on their position has not been taken by any other great country in the world."

U.S. Urged To Pressure Israel on UN Resolutions

*NC2802112191 Paris AFP in English 1105 GMT
28 Feb 91*

[Text] Amman, Feb 28 (AFP)—Jordan on Thursday urged the United States to pressure Israel into accepting U.N. resolutions on the Palestinians and said an announced end to the Gulf war did not necessarily mean a ceasefire.

Information Minister Ibrahim 'Izz-al-Din said United Nations Security Council resolutions must be respected, namely 242 and 338 concerning the Arab-Israeli problem. "The United States has all the means to pressure Israel," he said, cautioning that if Washington failed to do so, ties between the Arabs and the West would be "poisoned."

Amman has supported Baghdad in the Gulf crisis—triggered by Iraq's August 2 invasion of Kuwait—and repeatedly sought to broker a peaceful solution.

"They (the U.S.) have to show signs of implementing 242 and 338," he said.

The resolutions call for an Israeli withdrawal from captured Arab territory and for a just solution to the regional refugee question.

"And now we are all watching, all the Arabs and basically the Palestinians, would be watching the five (permanent members of the Security Council) on what they are going to do," the minister said.

His comments came as Baghdad announced Thursday morning that orders had been given to Iraqi forces to hold their fire against U.S.-led troops in Kuwait and southern Iraq.

"As we understood it, it is not a ceasefire. It has to be discussed at the Security Council," the minister said, adding that Iraq had met all requirements for its implementation. "At this particular moment, the most important thing is to move into the diplomatic process and to end this ugly war," he said.

Mr. 'Izz-al-Din said Jordan had completely opposed the war. "We want to believe that it has ended now."

Information Minister Comments on Withdrawal

*NC2702232291 Amman Domestic Service in Arabic
2100 GMT 27 Feb 91*

[Text] Information Minister Ibrahim 'Izz-al-Din has said that since Iraq has completed its withdrawal from Kuwait, it is difficult to justify anything.

Speaking to journalists today, the information minister added: I believe that Iraq is being put under great and

unnecessary pressure after it has accepted Security Council Resolution 660 and has issued a statement saying that it completed its withdrawal from Kuwait.

The information minister said that from now on no one can justify anything. When thinking about the future, he added, one should believe that the Arabs can live and work together, and that they can be once more close to each other because we do not see it [the Gulf crisis] as a closed chapter.

The information minister pointed out that [the allies] should not shell cities and kill people in order to force them to accept Security Council resolutions. They should be convinced by other means, like diplomacy, he said.

Muslim Brotherhood Iterates Stand With Iraq

*NC2702160891 Amman AL-RAY in Arabic 27 Feb 91
p 2*

[Text] Amman—The representatives of the Islamic Movement—Muslim Brotherhood—in the Jordanian House of Representatives have issued the following statement: So lose not heart, nor fall into despair: For ye must gain mastery if ye are true in faith. If a wound hath touched you, be sure a similar wound hath touched the others. [Koranic verses]

Fraternal Iraq has witnessed eight months of steadfastness against all sorts of blockade and boycott. The brave Iraqi Army, supported by the faithful masses of the Iraqi people, fought a defensive war for over six weeks against the oppression and aggression forces led by the United States and joined by 29 other countries. As the alliance forces heavily bombed Iraqi cities, towns, civil institutions, and economic installations in unprecedented raids, Iraq's leadership, people, and Army remained steadfast. During each day of the steadfastness and jihad, Iraq wrote new pages of history from which the Arab and Islamic world, or rather the entire world, began to witness a radical change which restored to jihad its position in the march of this nation as the only way to help truth come into its own and to liberate the Arab Islamic will from the Jewish, U.S. and foreign hegemony which has long controlled the decisions and policies of the region's countries.

We are obliged to express our pride in and appreciation for the steadfastness and jihad of the Iraqi people and their Army, while stressing that the withdrawal of the Iraqi forces from Kuwait ends a stage of the successive jihad stages. God willing, Iraq's steadfastness before thirty countries, among which are at least three superpowers, in a situation similar to a world war is regarded as a splendid victory. The ugly defeat has befallen those who stood watching an Arab Muslim people being subjected to an annihilation attempt and those who accepted on themselves to be a party to the trench of crusaders, Zionism, and treason.

We are sure that faithful Iraq, while following the steps of its worthy forefathers, will adopt the position taken by Khalid Bin-al-Walid, who was named by God's Prophet, may God's peace and blessings be upon him, God's brandished sword. The prophet's prophecy with regard to the army returning from [the battle] of Mu'tah was correct when he said: "They shall return, God willing."

We have no doubt that this unique Iraqi steadfastness will reformulate the Arab and Islamic reality, in which the word of Almighty God will be raised high. It will also save the Arab and Islamic world from all the hireling and defeatist rulers who added a grim black spot to their nation's history and to whom we say what the great God said: And soon will the unjust assailants know what vicissitudes their affairs will take. [Koranic verse]

In conclusion, we iterate our firm stand on the side of the fraternal Iraqi people and their brave Army in order to write the epic of victory which delights the faithful, God willing. God is great, and thanks be to God.

Iranian Charge d'Affaires on Relations

NC2802102091 Amman JORDAN TIMES in English
27 Feb 91 p 3

[P.V. Vivekanand report]

[Text] Amman—Iran, having resumed diplomatic relations with Jordan after a 10-year break, is looking forward to building strong relations with the Kingdom based on mutual trust and respect, the first Iranian diplomat to take up post here since 1981 said Tuesday.

"There is a lot of possibilities for cooperation in all fields and levels, and we are looking forward to exploring all means and ways towards establishing a strong relationship with Jordan," said Naraqian, who arrived late Sunday to reopen the Islamic Republic's diplomatic mission here.

Mr. Naraqian, who holds the rank of charge d'affaires and will head the mission here until Tehran formally names an ambassador to Jordan, noted that Jordan and Iran were bound by the common religion, Islam.

"The Islamic Republic of Iran, acting from a position of responsibility and in line with Islamic principles and ideals, will seek to cooperate with Jordan in the political sphere," he told the Jordan Times when asked how Tehran envisaged political relations with the Kingdom.

Although the diplomat, who speaks fluent Arabic, did not make any direct comment on the political position of Jordan, senior Iranian leaders as well as the Iranian media have expressed appreciation of the Kingdom's stand vis-a-vis the Middle East issues, particularly the Gulf crisis. They have also voiced understanding of the Jordanian stand and solidarity with the Kingdom in its refusal to endorse the American-led campaign against Iraq.

"Avenues are there in all fields—economy, trade, culture, religion, technology, expertise, everywhere," Mr. Naraqian said when asked whether Tehran was responding positively to possibilities that Jordan might seek Iranian oil to make up for the loss of Iraq supply to the Kingdom.

Mr. Naraqian, who served as Iranian charge d'affaires at Tehran's diplomatic mission in Bahrain before posted to Jordan, said he hoped to reopen the Amman embassy by Saturday. He is accompanied by a colleague and is expecting a final decision on the numerical strength of the mission here by next week.

As Mr. Naraqian inspected the premises and prepared to reopen the mission here, his Jordanian counterpart, Muhammad al-Dhahir, headed for the Iranian capital Tuesday on a similar mission.

Trade between Iran and Jordan is expected to rise dramatically in the wake of the resumption of diplomatic relations, Jordanian officials and businessmen say.

The two sides have already signed a deal under which Jordan would export phosphates worth \$66 million to Iran during 1991 and will import Iranian sulphur and related minerals used in the fertiliser industry, officials said.

"Iran is one of the natural markets for Jordanian phosphates, and it is also quite natural that Iran might want to supply us with some of its products in return," said a senior official.

The first consignment of phosphates is scheduled to leave Jordan's Red Sea port of al-Aqabah this month.

Trade between the two countries was negligible during the years of war between Iran and Iraq, in which Jordan backed Iraq, leading to the break in diplomatic relations in January 1981.

According to Jordanian figures, the Kingdom imported Iranian goods—mostly nuts, water melon and melon seeds, raisins and carpets—worth JD [Jordanian dinars] 296,400 in 1987 (approximately \$830,000 under the rates prevailing then) JD1.125 million (\$3.1 million) in 1988 and JD2,015 (\$3.1 million, reflecting a sharp decline in the value of the dinar), and JD1.6 million (\$2.4 million) until October 1990.

Jordan started exports—mainly yeast, paint, household plastic products, clothes and shoes—to Iran during 1990, registering a total of JD760,000 (\$1.1 million). Most of the business was conducted overland through Syria and Turkey.

The Iranian market offers a wide range of opportunities for Jordanian businessmen and many are preparing themselves to travel to Iran as soon as they can obtain a visa with the expected reopening of the Iranian embassy in Amman. Earlier, Jordanians had to obtain Iranian visa from Tehran's mission in Damascus.

Women Denounce 'American-Led Aggression'

JN2502101991 Amman JORDAN TIMES in English
25 Feb 91 p 3

["Special" to the JORDAN TIMES by Sirin Halasa]

[Text] Amman—Around two hundred women, sandwiched between riot police and a barrage of foreign reporters, demonstrated Sunday in front of the American embassy denouncing the start of the land aggression against Iraq.

"No good morning, no good night, ya America we will fight," "U.S.A. go away," the women shouted in a show of opposition to the West especially the American administration, calling U.S. President George Bush the butcher of Iraqi women and children.

Carrying Jordanian, Iraqi, and Palestinian flags the women expressed their anger at the American-led aggression against Iraq. "Today this war has proven to the world that the main aim of the United States of America is to destroy Iraq, not to liberate the so-called emirate of Kuwait," a woman demonstrator said.

"The so-called Western democracy was built on tyranny and slavery. They have reduced us to the law of the jungle," said another woman who refused to give her name.

A group of women who were asked to be interviewed by an American reporter declined, with one of the them saying: "what for? Everytime friends of mine are interviewed their words are either twisted or they are not mentioned at all."

Another woman, who overheard the conversation cut in saying "American people are basically nice and simple people, our fight is not with them; it is with their leader, Bush. Their only mistake is that they have allowed themselves to be brainwashed by Zionism."

Attending the demonstration were a group of Italian peace activists, who came to the region in a show of solidarity with the Iraqi, Palestinian, and Jordanian people. Some of them took part in the actual demonstration while others sat on the curb holding banners that read "we are ashamed to be West people (Westerners)."

"U.S. crimes: Hiroshima, Korea, Vietnam, Laos, Congo, Chile, Cambodia, Granada, Panama, Cuba, Nicaragua, Libya, Lebanon... now Iraq, who is the next?" read one banner carried by a child during the demonstration.

In what appeared to be wishful thinking, women burst out yodelling and clapping their hands at what later turned out to be a false rumour of 150,000 Egyptian soldiers defecting to the Iraqi side. The feeling of jubilation ran high after news of that rumour broke out, to the degree that some women actually cried. "Do you really think it happened?" asked one woman, "I pray it did," came the reply.

Demonstrate Outside U.S. Embassy

NC2502115191 Amman PETRA-JNA in Arabic
0930 GMT 25 Feb 91

[Text] Amman, 25 Feb (PETRA)—Women's organizations in Amman demonstrated outside the American Embassy yesterday afternoon in protest of the American and allied forces aggression against fraternal Iraq, expressing anger at this unjust aggression and denouncing it.

Carrying Jordanian, Iraqi, and Palestinian flags, the demonstrators denounced the practices of America and its allies against the Iraqi people, noting their crimes against Iraq and the Arab nation.

The organizations called for action to stop the war and for the need to confront the ferocious American onslaught against the Arab nation.

Riot Police Block Access to U.S. Embassy

JN2802092491 Amman JORDAN TIMES in English
28 Feb-1 Mar 91 p 3

[P.V. Vivekanand report]

[Excerpts] Amman—Jordanians appeared to be subdued and reflecting politically Wednesday over the situation in the Gulf after Iraq's acceptance of withdrawal from Kuwait, but many reacted with vehement fury over the continued attacks on Iraqi forces by the allies.

Several analysts also warned that the allies' pursuit of optimal political and military goals by continuing the war and what is widely seen as a determination to delay a ceasefire as much as possible could spark violent reactions from moderates.

Shock and disbelief which initially greeted the Iraqi announcement that it was withdrawing from Kuwait early Tuesday made way Wednesday for indignation and anger over the American refusal to accept the Iraqi withdrawal and Washington's insistence to "prosecute" the war within Iraqi territory. [passage omitted]

Security forces meanwhile remained on alert against any violent incidents, and senior officials said they were discouraging people from staging demonstrations.

"We understand the people's feelings and frustration over the situation in the Gulf," said a senior official. "We also realise that protests and demonstrations are one way of letting off steam, but we cannot allow things to get out of hand—which is a definite possibility, given the mood of the people."

Security forces were discouraging foreign television crews and cameramen from venturing out freely from their hotels. A security source explained that while no major incident of violence against foreign journalists had taken place, "it is only a matter of prudence of them to keep a low profile for a day or two."

Riot police had sealed off the access from the Third and Second Circles to the American embassy, and most foreign journalists staying at the Intercontinental Hotel were advised to stay within the hotel premises.

Paper Says Iraq Withdrew Fearing Nuclear Attack

NC2802145191 Amman *AKHBAR AL-USBU' in Arabic*
28 Feb 91 pp 1, 23

[Excerpt] An informed Arab source has said that Iraq's decision to withdraw from Kuwait came after its forces had managed during the first two days of the U.S. and allied ground offensive. [sentence as published] It also came following reports, which may have originated in the Soviet Union, that President Bush had decided to use nuclear weapons against the Iraqis. The U.S. decision came after the al-Husayn (Scud) missiles began to collectively fall on Israel, Riyadh, Qatar, and Bahrain, and after one of these missiles hit a military base in al-Khubar, Saudi Arabia, killing 27 U.S. soldiers, and injuring 98 others. Some 40 other soldiers are still missing. The party who learned of the U.S. decision informed Baghdad and the Iraqi leadership of it, and of the U.S. determination to occupy Basra and not to withdraw from it unless all U.S. conditions are implemented under the umbrella of the 12 UN Security Council resolutions.

When the Iraqi leadership ensured the authenticity of the reports on the above intentions, it rapidly accepted to withdraw from Kuwait. President Saddam Husayn then made a statement in which he announced the withdrawal decision. [passage omitted]

Jordanian Reaction to Iraqi Withdrawal

NC2702140091 Amman *JORDAN TIMES in English*
27 Feb 91 p 3

[By Maryam Shahin, JORDAN TIMES staff reporter]

[Text] Amman—Jordanians Tuesday received news of Iraq's decision to withdraw its troops out of Kuwait with mixed feelings of anger, disbelief and despair.

In the morning, as foreign agency dispatches and radio stations spoke of the Baghdad announcement as a "fait accompli," many Jordanians still thought the Iraqi announcement on Baghdad Radio was only a ploy. "The announcement just said 'this is Radio Baghdad, while all previous official announcements were always made in the name of the Revolutionary Command Council, so this is an allied trick,'" said Sami Jundi, a taxi driver. But as 11:00 o'clock approached and Iraqi President Saddam Husayn personally told his people of the Iraqi leadership's decision on Radio Baghdad, reality dawned on most stunned Jordanians.

Recalling how, in the early hours of Jan. 17, they had been made by Western media to think that Iraq had been destroyed after the first day of air bombardment, many

Jordanians tuned in one radio station after radio station in order to find reports to the contrary. But such reports were filed by no one.

One Lower House deputy called Iraq's position a victorious one. "Iraq emerged victorious after a 40-day battle," said independent Deputy Fakhri Qa'war. Qa'war said that he had, however, been surprised that the ground battle for Kuwait had lasted only two days. "We did not think the allies would be defeated but we expected a longer ground battle," he said.

Islamist Deputy Ya'qub Girrish said that he still had confidence in the competence of the Iraqi leadership and said that Saddam Husayn could not be blamed for the turn of events because, "we, the Arabs failed to come to his side."

Some Jordanians expressed bitterness that Saddam Husayn did not fulfil his promise of turning the battle for Kuwait [into] the "mother of the battles."

"I can't believe that they only lasted two days in the ground battle, after all that he (Saddam Husayn) told us, I'm shocked," said Sumayya Shakir.

Some people predicted that bitterness and resentment towards the West will increase in most parts of the Arab World, and Jordan in particular. "Because of a feeling of humiliation, people will lash out at the West after this is over," said Yusuf Mahir, a psychologist.

Newspaper columnist Mu'nis al-Razzaz predicted that strong liberation movements will emerge in the post-war era just as they had in the post-1967 period. "We will see other extremist groups emerging all over the region," al-Razzaz said.

Nasir Abu-Samrah, 28, said "I think he was courageous to withdraw instead of just burning all of Kuwait as he said he would, this is really more honourable." Other young men reacted differently.

Dozens of young men hurried to the local recruitment centre for the Arab-Islamic corps in the hope that their recruitment would somehow turn the tide of events.

While most Jordanians were too numb and shocked and unwilling to speak, even to the Arab press about how they felt, some said that they saw the retreat coming.

"Of course we are shocked," said Lu'ay Dabbagh, political spokesman for the National Unity Party. "Politically, however, this was expected, ever since Saddam Husayn and the Iraqi leadership agreed to the Gorbachev plan, it was clear there would be a withdrawal," said Dabbagh.

"It could very well be that the Americans will continue shelling the Iraqis all the way to Baghdad," he said. The merciless shelling of the Iraqis by the allied forces, he said, was not to liberate Kuwait but to break the Iraqis completely.

But most Jordanians were incapable of articulating a political analysis on the spur of the moment. "This is a black day for all of us, because an Arab fought an Arab and for what—for the good of Israel and America, it is indeed a black day," said Abu-Imad Jarrar.

All Jordanians were stunned that the allied forces had continued to bomb the retreating Iraqi troops. "That, is outrageous," said a shopper in a Shumaysani supermarket who would only identify himself as Abu-Radi. "What exactly is it that they want? (the allied troops). To destroy the Arab World?"

Many Jordanians saw the unconditional retreat of the Iraqi troops as a humiliating end to a seven-month saga which many of them thought would lead to resolving many of the region's outstanding, decades-old grievances.

"By linkage we thought we could all be happy," said Iman, a 30-year-old Palestinian teacher. "Now they will link us to the ovens to burn our dreams of justice in Palestine," she added cynically.

Some people thought that one could not say that the war was over. "Let us wait and see what will happen, this could be the beginning of another battle," said 'Imad Jarrar.

"Saddam is retreating and now his troops may have to fight so that the allies don't occupy Iraq," said Dabbagh, fearing the "mother of battles" may still be fought, "not in Kuwait City but in Baghdad."

Paper Attacks 'Racist' French Role in Gulf War

NC2602160691 Amman AL-RA'Y in Arabic
26 Feb 91 p 1, 13

[Editorial: "They Are Vying To Antagonize and To Humiliate Us"]

[Text] There is a real competition among the United States, Britain, and France in which the three colonial countries stress their great hostility toward and profound hatred of Arabs and Muslims. Although the Arab millions realize now that there is no difference among Washington, London, and Paris in terms of evil, lack of values, and racist actions against Arabism and Islam, the competition continues through statements, barbarity, and taking real pleasure in continuing the aggression against Iraq and continuing to slaughter its children and women in their homes, shelters, mosques, and churches. If the United States and Britain persist in their rancor and hatred of Arabs and Muslims and conspiracies against Arab and Muslim homelands, progress, and right to life, then France, which entered a new stage under former President Charles de Gaulle, has returned to its true colors under the Socialist Party and President Mitterand. France is trying hard to excel over all enemies of Arabism and Islam with all forms of condemned

inhumane and racist behavior. The last of the accomplishments of France (freedom and culture) is its government's decision to close the Islamic radio station of Marseilles, thus depriving more than 200,000 Muslims of hearing it. It had earlier deprived them of opening their private schools for Arabic language and Islamic teachings. Another French Socialist accomplishment is its government's decision to close down three Arab publications as a practical expression of the falsehood of this freedom and the lies of the culture whose capital is Paris!

In the aggression against Iraq, France played a big role in preparing for it and participating in it under the leadership of the United States. It is European France that was said to be the example of the independent national decision and the country which rejects all U.S. hegemony, including the domination of U.S. cuisine over French cuisine. When the ground attack on Iraq began, the French president bragged that he was the one who proposed the one-week deadline which President Bush presented in his well-known warning. The French president bragged that he ordered his forces to join in the ground attack. We know that it was a U.S. decision and order. We did not forget how Mitterand announced that his airplanes would not bomb targets in Iraq and his commitment to the UN Security Council resolutions in confronting the Iraqi forces in Kuwait. It seems that a threatening signal from the White House made the president forget what he had announced and give his airplanes the order to hit civilian and military targets in Iraq one day after that independent French announcement.

We have said that the United States, Britain, and France are hostile countries to us, all Arabs, and Muslims. No country is less evil or racist than the other. We know, however—as it is difficult for us to forget former President Charles de Gaulle—that France under the Socialist Party and leadership of President Mitterand is the France which perpetrated the ugliest crimes in its colonies. It is also the France by whose guns and spearheads one million Arab Algerians were martyred. Moreover, it is the France which sacrificed its national independence, attempts to achieve European leadership, and all that we sought to establish between our nations. Yet, France chose to ignore all this and to sprinkle ashes of subservience over the tomb of its great leader de Gaulle. What kind of victory will it be for France to participate in our invasion, the sacrificing of our friendship, and the showing of this magnitude of hatred for Arabs and Muslims?

Attacks on Withdrawing Iraqi Army Assailed

NC2802112991 Amman SAWT AL-SHA'B in Arabic
27 Feb 91 pp 1, 13

[Editorial: "Iraq Has Withdrawn Entirely of its Own accord, and the Mother of Battles Is Still Going On"]

[Text] After Iraq has withdrawn from Kuwait entirely of its own accord, no one can cast doubt on Iraq's desire for peace and its eagerness to halt this mad war and save the region and the world from further disasters.

But the hostile alliance, which is insisting on war, working to hamper the Iraqi withdrawal, bombing the withdrawing Iraqi forces, and threatening to occupy Iraq and topple its leadership, has disclosed its conspiracy against this steadfast country, its proud people, and its brave army.

The hostile alliance led by Bush has revealed its hidden evil intentions against Iraq and the Arab nation. Long before 1990, the Bush administration and its allies began imposing an economic, scientific, and technological siege on Iraq in order to weaken it politically and militarily and to place it under their control.

Iraq, in its current situation, can block the implementation of the new American project in the region. This necessitates, in the view of Bush, the removal of every obstacle before this new conspiratorial project. This proves that the decision to commit aggression against Iraq was planned before 2 August 1991.

The international legitimacy and the Security Council's resolution were only a political cover which Bush and his allies used to launch their mad war against Iraq. Otherwise, why does the alliance of aggression insist on continuing the war despite the Iraqi withdrawal from Kuwait, and why do they not respond to the calls of the international community?

However, the Iraqis' resistance can be compared to those glorious historic epics of courage and manlihood, where they also demonstrated fighting skills and steadfastness, astonishing the enemies and frightening their soldiers.

By their sacrifices and fighting capability, they have revived the glories of this nation as well as the glorious heritage of heroic deeds, self-confidence, and belief in sure victory.

The Iraqis have established in the "mother of battles" true criteria for patriotism and nationalism, for the meaning of jihad [struggle] and faith, and for affiliation to Islam, manlihood, struggle, and sacrifice for the sake of the homeland and the sanctities.

While their recent victories in the "mother of battles" are everyone's topic of conversation and the subject of interest and admiration by the enemies before the friends, we can say that the future harvest will be even greater.

President Saddam Husayn said that the mother of battles has sown good seeds so that the future harvest can be greater than the present one.

Iraq confronted an aggression by 30 countries led by the United States, a superpower, supported by Britain and France, which are the most impudent colonialists in ancient, middle, and modern history.

In other words, 30 countries singled out Iraq, exploiting the Soviet Union's weakness and its absence as one of two poles of the conflict. Iraq remained steadfast and the brave Iraqi Army continued to fight with rare courage and will continue to defend its territory and the pure Arab land, the cradle of messages and prophets, until aggression is repulsed and the enemy is defeated.

If the invaders try to approach the land of lofty Iraq, its brave soldiers will turn them into bodies swimming in their dirty blood. If God helps you, none can overcome you. [koranic verse]

Kuwaiti Currency Flourishing on Black Market

JN2802094891 Amman JORDAN TIMES in English
28 Feb-1 Mar 91 p 7

[P.V. Vivekanand report]

[Excerpts] Amman—The Kuwaiti dinar, regarded only seven weeks ago by many as almost worthless paper, has swung back into hectic trading in the black market in Jordan, with dealers offering as much as JD [Jordanian dinar] 1,600 Wednesday noon compared with 500 fils in the first week of the Gulf war.

Much of trading Tuesday and Wednesday was done near the embassy of Kuwait, where Kuwaitis and many former residents of the emirate converged after hearing the news of Iraq's withdrawal from the sheikhdom which it invaded on Aug. 2. "Small-time operators" in downtown Amman were also doing the buying Wednesday, banking officials said. [passage omitted]

But no Jordanian bank yet is accepting the dinar, apparently awaiting moves by the Central Bank of Kuwait.

"We might be getting official instructions as well as signals from the market soon to include the Kuwaiti dinar in our trading," said an official at the Islamic Bank, one of the last Jordanian institutions to deal in the emirate's currency. "Until then we are staying away from touching it."

According to a senior official of the Grindlays Bank, "everything depends on what the Kuwaiti authorities decide to do."

"I believe that they will restore the currency at its pre-invasion rates in the first few weeks to instill confidence in the market and then implement further measures to consolidate the situation more realistically," he told the Jordan Times. [passage omitted]

Kuwaiti Ambassador Thanks Al-Asad for Support*NC2602190491 Damascus SANA in Arabic 1627 GMT 26 Feb 91*

[Text] Damascus, 26 Feb (SANA)—Kuwaiti Ambassador to Syria and Lebanon Ahmad 'Abd-al-'Aziz al-Jasim has expressed his profound thanks to President Hafiz al-Asad and the generous Syrian people for their support for Kuwait's just cause and their assistance to the Kuwaiti people in their ordeal.

In a statement to the Kuwaiti information center in Damascus after inaugurating the Kuwaiti school today, the ambassador said the ongoing war's aim is to liberate Kuwait and restore legitimacy there.

The school principal thanked the Syrian Government for its services to the Kuwaiti community in Syria. He said the action to liberate Kuwait coincides today with the country's independence anniversary, and that the Kuwaitis will (re)construct their country.

Al-Asad Receives Lebanese President 27 Feb*NC2702123591 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 1215 GMT 27 Feb 91*

[Text] President Hafiz al-Asad received Lebanese President Ilyas al-Hirawi at 1215 today. Vice President 'Abd-al-Halim Khaddam attended the meeting.

Discuss Gulf Situation*NC2702195991 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 1915 GMT 27 Feb 91*

[Text] President Hafiz al-Asad received Lebanese President Ilyas al-Hirawi at 1215 today. The Lebanese president arrived in Damascus this morning on a working visit. The meeting was also attended by Vice President 'Abd-al-Halim Khaddam, and was later joined by Foreign Minister Faruq al-Shar' and Chief of the General Staff General Hikmat al-Shihabi.

The meeting discussed the fraternal relations between the two countries, the situation in Lebanon, and international contacts held by the two countries. It also reviewed the situation in the Gulf, as well as the international situation in terms of its relation to the Gulf situation.

The two presidents expressed regret over events in the Gulf region. President al-Asad said these are the most painful days for him because of the destruction befalling Arabs in Kuwait, Iraq, and the entire Arab homeland. He explained that this situation only pleases the enemies and encourages their greed.

The president said, however, that we will maintain the ability and the will to prevent everyone with designs against our Arab land from realizing his goals. The president expressed his regret that the Iraqi leadership had not responded to Syria's advice in time to spare Iraq, Kuwait, and all Arabs the current losses and

damage they are suffering. He also expressed the hope that the Iraqi leadership will not make any new mistakes which could further aggravate the tragedy, and that it will pursue the proper course to avoid further losses.

Touching on Lebanon, the president reiterated Syria's firm commitment to support Lebanon and the national accord document and its determination to provide the legitimate Lebanese authority with any support it may request.

President al-Asad hosted a dinner for President al-Hirawi and the officials taking part in the talks.

Visiting Japanese Official Received By Al-Shar'**Discuss Gulf, Relations***NC2402194591 Damascus SANA in Arabic 1615 GMT 24 Feb 91*

[Text] Damascus, 24 Feb (SANA)—Foreign Minister Faruq al-Shar' this afternoon received Japanese Deputy Foreign Minister Makoto Watanabe. Present were Assistant Foreign Minister Yusuf Shakkur; Mr. 'Abd-al-Dhawi Atasi, director of the Asia Desk at the Foreign Ministry; and the Japanese ambassador in Damascus.

During the meeting, they discussed the latest developments in the Gulf crisis and the Arab-Israeli conflict.

The discussion also centered on relations of friendship and cooperation between Syria and Japan.

Mr. Watanabe arrived in Damascus last night and was received at Damascus airport by Assistant Foreign Minister Yusuf Shakkur, and the directors of the Asia and Protocol Desks at the Foreign Ministry.

Meets With Al-Asad*NC2502145891 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 1215 GMT 25 Feb 91*

[Text] President Hafiz al-Asad received Japanese Assistant Foreign Minister Makoto Watanabe at 1400 today. The meeting was also attended by Foreign Minister Faruq al-Shar' and the Japanese ambassador in Damascus.

Conveys Kaifu Message*NC2502184591 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 1615 GMT 25 Feb 91*

[Text] President Hafiz al-Asad received Japanese Assistant Foreign Minister Makoto Watanabe at 1400 today. The meeting was also attended by Foreign Minister Faruq al-Shar' and the Japanese ambassador in Damascus.

Mr. Watanabe gave the president a written message from Japanese Prime Minister Toshiki Kaifu dealing with the spheres of bilateral cooperation. The president received the message with thanks and asked Watanabe to convey his thanks and greetings to Mr. Kaifu. Talks focused on the situation in the Gulf region, the efforts required after

this crisis comes to an end, and the role Japan can play to consolidate peace in the region and in the sphere of reconstruction.

Mr. Watanabe expressed Japan's appreciation for Syria's importance and role in the region. Discussions also dealt with bilateral relations and cooperation between Syria and Japan.

Italian Economic, Cultural Cooperation To Expand

AU2802111691 Rome ANSA in English 1037 GMT
28 Feb 91

[Text] Damascus, 28 February (ANSA)—Italian Foreign Undersecretary Claudio Lenoci has announced here that Italy and Syria will bolster economic, commercial and cultural cooperation and that during the Gulf crisis Rome's dialogue with this Arab nation had proved "very important," especially in terms of ways to create a new stability in the region once the war was over.

Lenoci, who is currently on a visit to the Syrian capital, took part Wednesday in a joint Italo-Syrian committee meeting to discuss cooperation projects and conferred with Syrian Planning Minister Sabah Baqajji.

Italy is to grant Syria loans totalling 60 billion dollars, Lenoci said, adding that the two sides had decided to focus primarily on agriculture and electric energy. They will also intensify their cooperation in the field of education and culture, he said.

Al-Shar' Receives New British Ambassador

NC2502153991 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic
1215 GMT 25 Feb 91

[Text] Foreign Minister Faruq al-Shar' this morning received Andrew Green, the new British ambassador, who handed him a copy of his credentials as ambassador to the Syrian Arab Republic.

The discussion during the meeting dealt with the developments in the region and bilateral relations.

Iraqi Refugees Fleeing War Arrive in Al-Hasakah

Temporary Residence Set Up

NC2202180191 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic
1615 GMT 22 Feb 91

[Text] Two new groups of Iraqi refugees fleeing the war caused by the Iraqi regime crossed the Iraqi-Syrian border today. The two groups of Iraqi brothers arrived at the Iraqi refugee camp in al-Hawl area in al-Hasakah today. They were received by the committees set up for this purpose and were offered health services and their requirements for temporary residence in the camp.

A number of refugees said that the instigation of this war has brought starvation and further tragedies. They affirmed that the Iraqi people are anxious to see an end to this tragedy and to the ordeal caused by the war.

Third Group Arrives

NC2302183691 Damascus SANA in Arabic 1620 GMT
23 Feb 91

[Text] Al-Hasakah, Northeastern Syria, 23 Feb (SANA)—A third group of Iraqi refugees from Baghdad and Dahuk Governorates arrived last night.

They were moved to al-Hawl camp in al-Hasakah, where they were provided with their requirements for living and residence.

In their statements, the refugees said that flight to the border continues despite the Iraqi authorities' strict measures and expanded repressive practices against whoever tries to leave.

More Iraqi Refugees Arrive

NC2602195291 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic
1915 GMT 26 Feb 91

[Text] A new group of Iraqi refugees, fleeing the war caused by the Iraqi regime, arrived at al-Hawl camp in al-Hasakah this evening. The necessary assistance and services were provided to them.

Arrivals Continue at Camp

NC2702222291 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic
2115 GMT 27 Feb 91

[Text] Al-Hasakah—A new group of fraternal Iraqis, fleeing the war caused by the Iraqi regime's occupation of the fraternal State of Kuwait, arrived at the al-Hawl camp in al-Hasakah today. Relief committees received the fraternal Iraqis. They were accommodated at the camp after they had been provided with necessities and makeshift housing.

The new arrivals who came from the governorates of Dahuk and al-Ta'mim told a SANA correspondent in al-Hasakah that flight from Iraq is continuing.

Withdrawal Decision Said Taken To Save Saddam

NC2702194191 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic
1230 GMT 27 Feb 91

[Station commentary]

[Text] Dear listeners: Everything indicates that the Gulf war has entered its final phase and that Kuwait will regain sovereignty over its national soil within the next few hours. All estimates indicate that the war was lost not by any failure on the part of the Iraqi Army and people but as a result of the wrong decision made by Iraq's rulers without the knowledge of the Arab citizen in Iraq some seven months ago. This decision led to this situation and brought about all this destruction and ruin in Iraq's territory and in Kuwait in a war triggered by a number of wrong calculations that took control of the ruling political mind in Baghdad throughout all phases of crisis.

What is regrettable and painful is the fact that the Iraqi people and Army have paid the price and settled the account without having expressed any opinion or had any say in all that has taken place and without ever having had any thought of invading their brother neighbors in Kuwait, rebelling against the Arab and international will after the invasion, or defying and taking on the world in a confrontation the outcome and consequences of which could be perceived by every thinking person. A searching look at the dramatic developments in the Gulf war in the past two days shows clearly that the Iraqi regime did not resort to a decision to withdraw from Kuwait out of concern for the Army or to save its people from the tribulations of war—an option that was available to it before 17 January and remained a possibility before the outbreak of the land war. Instead, it resorted to the withdrawal decision to save the head of the regime after the Iraqis experienced great sufferings, after destruction and ruin afflicted all of Iraq, and after the Iraqi Army in Kuwait was faced with this vast international force which no army, regardless of whatever delusions may have seized its rulers, could or should confront. This means that all the blood spilled by the Iraqis and all the destruction and ruin they faced for 40 days were not important in the calculations of the Baghdad government as long as the final aim of all its actions was to safeguard the leader of the regime, even if Iraq and all in it were burned.

In deep pain and sorrow, we in Syria believe that nothing that has happened or may happen is as important as the fate of Iraq's people, its territory, and its unity. What we are concerned about and what we are doing all we can to guarantee is to see Iraq's future and territories belong to its sons on the basis of free political choices that open the door of construction, development, and progress for the Iraqis and restore to them their will in war and in peace together with the sons of their nation and their brothers everywhere in Arab lands. No ruler can confiscate these options no matter how arrogant he becomes. No one can replace these options with false choices no matter what tools of repression and terrorism he possesses.

Iraq's future will be determined by the Iraqis. The clouds of the tribulation will not darken the skies of Iraq forever because our fraternal people there are capable of healing their wounds, regaining their strength, overcoming the tragedy, and writing their new history with their own free will despite all difficulties.

Columnist: Israeli Claims on Peace Lack 'Evidence'

NC2702163391 Damascus SYRIA TIMES in English
20 Feb 91 p 5

[Column by Walid Shihadah: "Shamir's New Claims"]

[Text] Yitzhaq Shamir has declared readiness for "peace" in the Middle East and said but Israel must first achieve its own goals in the Gulf conflict and then it can start negotiations for peace in a more suitable climate, adding that Israel is a "peace-loving" country! [sentence

as published] How can Israel be an advocate of peace when plans are being worked out to absorb a million new Jewish immigrants, and within a year or two the majority of world Jews will have settled in Israel? Those new-comers will naturally displace indigenous Palestinians who will be forced out of their own land and property.

A careful observer of the events will see that Israel claims to be on the side of peace. For many years now, Israeli leaders have been getting their own way of establishing settlements to take in more Jews at the expense of Arab land and property. Israeli leaders of the various political parties have never thought of just peace, or just Arab rights. The peace they think of is an Arab surrender to their own designs of the establishment of Greater Israel, and this means deportation of Arabs and confiscation of their property, in other words. It is a consolidation of Israeli occupation of the Arab land.

On many occasions was this voiced by Shamir and his ilk, who have emphasized that Israel will not withdraw from Gaza or the West Bank, nor from the Golan or South Lebanon, which are all included in their settlement plans that will take in the ever-increasing wave of immigration. Do they intend to be pictured by Western media as a peaceful entity when they persist to declare their love of peace?

Israeli statements about "peace" lack the concrete evidence. If they really want peace, the first signal would be their declaration that they accept to withdraw from the occupied Arab territories and that they are ready to implement UN Security Council resolutions that recognize Palestinian rights. When they honestly say this, the Arabs and the international community will be convinced of this new claim for peace. But the fact remains that Israel wants the Arabs to accept the peace it wants, the peace that falls in well with designs of expansion, and Israel persists in holding on to the territories it occupies. It has never halted its policy of establishing more and more settlements in all parts of the territories occupied in 1967, where the Arab citizens are being subjected to the most savage means of oppression by the Israeli occupiers.

Israel has been defying the whole world by rejecting just peace that rests on the implementation of UN Security Council resolutions, and which can only be achieved through an international conference where all parties to the conflict would take part, and so long as this is being rejected by Israel, no one will ever believe that Israel really wants peace.

Joint Arab Action Urged After 'This Disaster'

NC2802170291 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic
1230 GMT 28 Feb 91

[Station commentary]

[Excerpts] No words can describe the appalling amount of destruction that has afflicted Iraq and Kuwait. No

words can reflect the proper echo of this disaster whose effects have extended to all the Arab homeland and left the soul of every Arab deeply sorrowful. We, along with every pained person, wonder: How and with what conscience and what mentality can a people, an army, and a homeland be pushed to a clear, certain impasse as a result of an individual decision which led to the annihilation of souls and countless capabilities and resources? How and why should an army, people, and homeland, with their esteemed status in their nation, be drawn to a clear and visible slaughter? The entire Arab nation is wounded by this appalling outcome of a battle caused by the stubbornness, arrogance, and hollow vanity of a regime which rejected all Arab, Islamic, and international appeals for seven months and was like a train uncontrollably rushing by anyone who tried to stop its blind rush to the abyss. Was there a doubt that the sincere voices were not clear enough? Was there a doubt that the voice of reason reiterated repeatedly and for a long time by Damascus to the Iraqi regime was not strong enough, convincing, and very expressive? [passage omitted]

Undoubtedly, this horrendous bleeding in Iraq and Kuwait is part of our own blood. Our hearts are bleeding for this cruel taking of lives which have been lost due to an adventurous course which tampers with slogans away from the Arabs' real battlefield. This course has denied these lives the opportunity to gain martyrdom in the occupied territory and to confront the major danger. What if the Iraqi leadership had responded to Syria's timely advice? What if this leadership had realized the meaning of the brotherly words and their honesty and sincerity which became absolutely selfless in the message of leader al-Asad to the Iraqi president? Could not Iraq and Kuwait have been spared this disaster, which is casting its black shadows over our Arab land from Tangier to Bahrain? Moreover, we do not know when these black shadows will be removed from Arab hearts and eyes. [passage omitted]

Although the outcome is disastrous for all Arabs, worthy of tears and lamentation, and generates deep sorrow within souls, our Arab nation has no choice but to suppress pain, bitterness, and wounds in order to work jointly and swiftly to treat the wound, to heal the rift, and to provide the conditions to confront events jointly regardless of the price. True, this reckless individual

mistake has been fatal and dangerous to a tragic extent. It is also true, however, that the Arab nation is a genuine nation which has passed through dreadful experiences only to rise from the ashes with further strength and resolve. No matter how hard the circumstances become, the Arab nation is capable of the will for cohesion and solidarity in the face of ordeals and disasters. Perhaps the most effective element in such circumstances is to confront the factors of despair and to provide the requirements for awakening and progress. Despite the difficult situation reached by the Arab homeland and although this situation heartens its enemies and boosts their ambitions, we will, as leader al-Asad affirmed yesterday [during a meeting with Lebanese President al-Hirawi], maintain the capability and firm will to prevent whoever covets our Arab land from achieving his ambitions. The lesson should make us wiser. Disasters and tragedies should enhance our strength and firmness. We should prove that we are a nation worthy of a free and dignified life regardless of others' ambitions and regardless of ordeals and hardship.

Paper Says 'Suspect Applause' Encouraged Baghdad

NC2802072891 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic
0545 GMT 28 Feb 91

[From the press review]

[Text] Under the headline "Who Dares Say the Truth," AL-THAWRAH says: With deep regret, mixed with much bitterness and pain, the rulers of Baghdad have not heeded the voice of reason and the call of conscience, and persisted in their mistake, running after miscalculations and encouraged by some suspect applause by their partners in crime.

The paper adds: Those partners, who enjoyed the game of mixing slogans and forging realities, have practiced the ugliest form of deception and agitation against anyone who called for correcting the mistake and abandoning the sin out of concern for Iraq and the [Arab] nation.

The paper says: Here they are going too far again and do not go back to the cause and core of the crisis, which was caused by Iraq's invasion of Kuwait, but hang on to the effects only because they fear the punishment of the masses, who lived through a tragic episode of falsehoods that was practiced against them.

Afghanistan

1921 Soviet Friendship Treaty Commemorated

Supreme Soviet Delegation Arrives

LD2502225491 *Kabul Domestic Service in Pashto*
1530 GMT 25 Feb 91

[Excerpts] A high-ranking delegation of the USSR Supreme Soviet led by Viktor Vladimirovich Yakushkin, member of the Supreme Soviet and deputy chairman of the working Committee of the Internationalists-servicemen of the Supreme Soviet, arrived in Kabul today to participate in the ceremony marking the 70th anniversary of signing the friendship treaty between Afghanistan and the Soviet Union. [passage omitted]

Mohammad Aslam Watanjar, defense minister of the Republic of Afghanistan met this afternoon in his office with the delegation. [passage omitted] Medals of the Republic of Afghanistan were presented to the head and members of the delegation by General Mohammad Aslam Watanjar.

The delegation later laid a wreath at the Afghan-Soviet friendship memorial monument.

RSFSR Delegation Arrives

LD2702100691 *Kabul Domestic Service in Pashto*
1530 GMT 26 Feb 91

[Excerpt] A delegation of the Russian Soviet Federated Socialist Republic [RSFSR] Supreme Soviet, headed by Boris Mikhaylovich Isayev, deputy chairman of the RSFSR Supreme Soviet, arrived in Kabul this morning to take part in a ceremony marking the 70th anniversary of the friendship treaty signing between Afghanistan and the Soviet Union.

At Kabul Airport the delegation was welcomed by Pohand Shah 'Ali Akbar Shahrestani, deputy chairman of the Afghan Senate; Zuhurrallah Zuhuri, deputy chairman of the Wolasi Jerga; 'Abdullah Bahar, deputy minister of foreign affairs; a number of officials from this Ministry; and Boris Nikolayevich Pashukhov, ambassador and plenipotentiary extraordinary of the Soviet Union in Kabul. [passage omitted]

Najibullah Sends Message to Gorbachev

LD2702182191 *Kabul Domestic Service in Pashto*
1530 GMT 27 Feb 91

[Text] Esteemed Najibullah, president of Afghanistan, has sent a message of congratulations addressed to His Excellency M.S. Gorbachev, president of the USSR, on the occasion of the 70th anniversary of the signing of first Afghan-Soviet treaty of friendship. The text follows:

Esteemed excellency,

I express cordial congratulations on behalf of myself and the people of Afghanistan on the occasion of the 70th

anniversary of the signing of the first Afghan-Soviet treaty of friendship, to you and the friendly people of the Soviet Union. The Afghan-Soviet Friendship Treaty of 1921, based on equality of rights, mutual respect, friendship, cooperation and goodneighborliness, constitutes the foundation of strong relations between our countries and peoples, for the expansion of all-out cooperation. The treaty has not only had a considerable impact on the recognition of the independence of Afghanistan at the international level, but has also helped the independent development and progress of our country.

The Republic of Afghanistan has vigorously used all possibilities for the cessation of fratricide, and it respects the efforts of the Soviet Union, a guarantor of the Geneva agreements, in this respect.

I am fully confident that the present relations of friendship and cooperation between our people and states will further expand and consolidate in the interests of peace and security in the region and the world. On this auspicious occasion, I express my good wishes for your excellency's health. I wish further success to the people of the Soviet Union in developing their country, implementing perestroika, and ensuring peace throughout the world.

Khaleqyar Sends Message to Pavlov

LD2702183591 *Kabul Domestic Service in Pashto*
1530 GMT 27 Feb 91

[Text] A message of congratulations has been sent by Fazl Haq Khaleqyar, prime minister of Afghanistan, to Moscow addressed to His Excellency V.S. Pavlov, prime minister of the USSR, on the occasion of the 70th anniversary of the signing of the first Afghan-Soviet friendship treaty. While expressing congratulations, the message says it is confident that the present friendly relations and mutually beneficial cooperation between the governments of the Republic of Afghanistan and the USSR will further expand in the interest of the people of the two countries and in the interest of ensuring of peace in the region and the world.

Bangladesh

Reportage on 27 Feb Parliamentary Elections

Described as Brisk, Peaceful

BK2702131091 *Dhaka Radio Bangladesh External Service in English* 1230 GMT 27 Feb 91

[Text] In Bangladesh, brisk polling took place Wednesday peacefully to elect the fifth parliament. The voting began at 0800 in the morning and continued till 1700 in the afternoon. Reports from different parts of the country say the voters, including females, thronged in large numbers at their respective polling centers to cast their votes amidst great enthusiasm. This is for the first time, the election was held under the supervision of a neutral, nonpartisan, caretaker government. Counting

of votes has begun. Unofficial results of the election will be available in a few hours from now. As already reported, over 62 million voters exercised their rights of franchise at over 24,000 polling centers in 298 constituencies out of 300 polling centers. Polling in other two constituencies will be held later in view of the death of two candidates; 380,000 officials have been directly engaged in the election process. In all, 2,779 candidates are contesting the election. Of them, 2,350 are nominees of 70 political parties and 425 independents.

Bangladesh Nationalist Party, BNP, is the only party which fielded candidates in all the constituencies. The Awami League and its alliance have put up 298 candidates. Other parties who have fielded more than 200 candidates are: Jatiya Party 270; Zaker Party 249; and Jamaat-i-Islami 220. Adequate security arrangements have been made to ensure free and fair elections throughout the country. Police, Ansars [civil defense force], and VDP [Village Defense Party] members have been deployed for maintenance of peace and discipline at the election centers.

Earlier, the acting president, Justice Shahabuddin Ahmed, visited a large number of polling centers in capital city Dhaka to see for himself the arrangements inside the polling stations. A large number of foreign observers visited different polling centers during election hours Wednesday and have expressed satisfaction at the conduct of polls.

AFP Reports Violence

BK2702135791 Hong Kong AFP in English 1352 GMT 27 Feb 91

[Text] Dhaka, Feb 27 (AFP)—At least one person was killed and 86 people, including women, were injured when rival groups clashed Wednesday during Bangladesh's parliamentary elections, official sources here said.

A 30-year-old man was killed and six injured during fighting between activists of the rival Awami League and Bangladesh Nationalist Party (BNP) at a polling centre on the southeastern coastal island of Sandwip, the official BSS NEWS AGENCY reported.

It was the first reported death in the otherwise peaceful day of parliamentary polling. Bangladesh's first free elections in 20 years under an interim government which succeeded deposed president Hussain Mohammad Ershad in December.

At least 30 more people were hurt in similar clashes in Rangunia county in southeastern Chittagong district, where voting was suspended in one polling centre.

The sources said some 50 women were injured in western Sirajganj district's Kamalkhand area when clashes flared between rivals, adding that two of the injured were admitted to hospital in critical condition.

One of the 10 candidates in the county concerned has been arrested and balloting was stopped in the polling centre.

The clashes were the first reported violence since the nine-hour balloting began at 8 A.M. (0200 GMT) nationwide in 24,000 polling centres.

Voting was also suspended in Keraniganj, near Dhaka, after a group of women voters were threatened by troublemakers who were chased away by troops, police and witnesses said.

At least 16 people died in pre-poll violence since December across Bangladesh, according to unofficial estimates.

Officials said voting was also suspended in six more centres including one each at eastern Daudkandi, northern Gaffargaon and southeastern Anowara.

In Anowara, in southeastern Chittagong district, officials suspended polling after unidentified youths stormed the facility there and hijacked filled ballot boxes.

Details were not available from the other two counties.

Police also arrested 50 other people and seized weapons elsewhere in Chittagong where some 700 candidates are vying for 78 seats.

BNP Leading in 94 Constituencies

BK2802014691 Dhaka Domestic Service in English 0112 GMT 28 Feb 91

[Excerpt] Unofficial results of the Jatiya Sangsad [Parliament] elections received so far from 207 constituencies indicate that BNP [Bangladesh Nationalist Party] is leading in 94 constituencies. The Awami League has got the second position with 68 seats followed by Jatiya Party 20, Jamaat-i-Islami 13, CPB [Communist Party of Bangladesh] 3, and BAKSAL [Bangladesh Krishak Sramik Awami League] 2.

BNP chief Khaleda has won from two constituencies in Sini and Bogura and is leading in two constituencies of Dhaka.

Awami League chief Sheikh has won from her home constituency in Gopalganj, but has been defeated in a Dhaka constituency.

Awami League General Secretary Begum Sajeda Chowdhury has won from Faridpur-2 constituency.

Hussain Mohammad Ershad has won from Rangpur-1, 2, 3, 5 and 6 and Kazi Zafar Ahmed from his own constituency.

Barrister Abdus Salam Taluqdar, Rashid Khan Memon, and Shahjahan Shiraj have been elected.

Among the political leaders who have been defeated are Mizanur Rahman Chowdhury, (Naziur Rahman), and Jaffer Imam of Jatiya Party; JSD [Jatiya Samajtantrik

Dal] chief, A.S.M. Abdul Rab; Chief of Janata Dal, K.M. Obaidur Rahman; CPB General Secretary, Saifuddin Ahmed Manik; Qadir Siddiqi of Awami League and Professor Muzaffar Ahmed of NAP [National Awami Party]. [passage omitted]

Further on Elections

BK2802045091 Hong Kong AFP in English 0438 GMT 28 Feb 91

[Text] Dhaka, Feb 28 (AFP)—The Bangladesh Nationalist Party (BNP) of Begum Khaleda Zia was leading its arch-rival the Awami League in two-thirds of the 298 parliamentary seats for which unofficial results had been announced as of early Thursday.

Out of the declared 230 of the 298 seats at stake Wednesday in the country's first free elections under a neutral caretaker government, the BNP secured 106 seats, according to an unofficial count given by Dhaka radio.

That was followed by the Awami League of Sheikh Hasina Wajed with 75.

State-run Bangladesh Television (BTV) had earlier given the BNP 97 and Awami League 66 seats.

The Jatiya Party (JP) of deposed President Hussain Mohammad Ershad was trailing in third position with 27 seats and the rightist Jamaat-e-Islami Party grabbed 14 seats, the unofficial counts said.

The remaining 90 seats were shared by three Awami League allies and some smaller parties besides three independent candidates.

Political observers said that despite its impressive and upsetting lead, the BNP needed a total of 151 seats to secure a simple majority of the 300 elected parliamentary seats. Thirty seats reserved for women will be indirectly elected later to make it a 330-seat house.

Begum Zia, 46, was already declared elected in two constituencies and was leading in three others.

Her rival Sheikh Hasina, 43, won her home constituency in Gopalganj but lost in one and trailed in another, both in Dhaka.

Jailed President Ershad, according to BTV's running results from the election commission, has won in all the five seats in his home district of Rangpur.

Other JP winners were Mr. Ershad's former Vice President Moudud Ahmed, now in jail, and his Prime Minister Kazi Zafar Ahmed, who contested the polls from hiding.

Mr. Ershad's successor as head of the JP, Mizanur Rahman Chowdhury, lost his home seat in Comilla.

India

Return of Kuwaiti Sovereignty Welcomed

BK2702124791 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1230 GMT 27 Feb 91

[Text] India has welcomed the restoration of sovereignty and independence of Kuwait. An External Affairs Ministry spokesman told newsmen in New Delhi today that India welcomes the announcement of the Amir of Kuwait on the restoration of sovereignty of his country and New Delhi is of the view that it is in accordance with the UN Security Council resolutions on the crisis. The spokesman, however, expressed India's concern at the continuation of the war in the Gulf in spite of achieving the objectives of the Security Council resolutions.

President's Rule in Kashmir Extended Six Months

BK2702165291 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1530 GMT 27 Feb 91

[Text] Parliament has approved the extension of president's rule in Jammu and Kashmir for another six months with the prime minister declaring that anyone trying to secede Kashmir away from India will be totally disappointed and Kashmir will remain a part of India at any cost. Following Mr. Chandra Shekhar's brief but forceful intervention, the Lok Sabha adopted the government resolution further extending central rule in the state from Sunday [3 March]. The Rajya Sabha has already approved the resolution.

The prime minister called upon Pakistan to work toward restoring cordiality between the two countries and cautioned that tension would not help either.

Responding to a BJP [Bharatiya Janata Party] suggestion, he assured members that he would soon visit the migrant camps in Jammu and try to sort out their problems.

Earlier, replying to the discussion, the minister of state for home, Mr. Subodh Kant, said that the center favors the idea put forward by the members of an advisory council to work with the Jammu and Kashmir governor on policy matters.

Sikh Militants Announce Media 'Code of Conduct'

BK2802011291 Hong Kong AFP in English 1750 GMT 27 Feb 91

[Text] Amritsar, India, Feb 27 (AFP)—Sikh separatists Wednesday announced a nine-point code of conduct for journalists in India's Punjab state and warned that dissenters could be killed.

The Panthic Committee, led by Wassan Singh Zaffarwal, said in a statement that the code was in answer to government moves against newspapers as well as magazines publishing "objectionable material".

The statement, delivered by post to newspapers and news agencies in this Sikh holy city, said the committee took "a serious view" of the government move, which it dubbed undeclared censorship.

The Sikh separatist campaign in Punjab for a homeland called Khalistan is led by four Panthic Committees, which are known to command several hundred armed men.

The code, which takes effect from March 18, bars publication of government news and distribution of newspapers carrying "government material" and appeals to journalists to boycott government functions.

"Newspaper agents, hawkers and others should go through newspapers thoroughly before distributing and selling them to ensure that they do not carry any government advertisement or news against the Khalistani mujahidin," it added.

The statement also warned newspapers not to publish "objectionable, derogatory and misleading news" against Sikh separatists, who India alleges are backed by Pakistan. Islamabad denies the charge.

The committee asked the PRESS TRUST OF INDIA (PTI) and the UNITED NEWS OF INDIA (UNI), the country's two premier English news agencies, not to distribute news slandering Sikh militants.

The code also prohibits Punjab government officials from distributing anti-Khalistan statements, and orders journalists at the state-run All India Radio and Doordarshan Television not to relay government news.

The statement warned that the Panthic Committee "will not hesitate to take stern action" if the code was violated. "It is possible that the committee may award the death penalty (to dissenters)," it said.

Wednesday's announcement came a week after the Punjab government issued orders to confiscate newspapers and magazines carrying "objectionable material," an official euphemism for news seen to be favouring Sikh militants.

Police officials were authorised to visit newspaper offices, check papers' contents, and seize them if necessary.

Sikh militants are known to publish advertisements announcing funeral meetings for guerrillas slain by security forces and protest strikes through newspapers.

In December, a rival Panthic committee issued another code of conduct for journalists, demanding among other things that Sikh militants should not be described as "terrorists".

Meanwhile, eight Sikh militants and eight civilians were killed across Punjab overnight Tuesday in continuing violence linked to the bloody Khalistan campaign, PTI reported.

The rebels, including two who were reportedly trying to sneak into Punjab from Pakistan, were gunned down by security forces in six different firefights, the news agency said. All the civilians were killed by suspected Sikh militants.

The latest killings bring to 675 the number of people killed in the Khalistan campaign this year.

Sikh Politician Demands Army Leave Punjab

*BK2802070291 Hong Kong AFP in English 0630 GMT
28 Feb 91*

[Text] New Delhi, Feb 28 (AFP)—A top Sikh leader called on New Delhi to pull its army out of Punjab and asked Sikhs to choose between "death and liberation" if the demand was not conceded, reports said Thursday.

Newspapers quoted Simranjit Singh Mann as saying that he backed the Sikh militant campaign for an independent theocratic state called Khalistan (land of the pure) in the northern state of Punjab.

Mr. Mann's pullout call late Wednesday followed the accidental killing by Indian troops of six Sikh farmers in Punjab's village of Nathuke Burj late Monday for which authorities have accepted responsibility.

Soldiers gunned down the six as they tried to run away when asked to halt at a security picket. The administration said it would pay 50,000 rupees (2,777 U.S. dollars) compensation to each of their families. But Mr. Mann, who heads the Sikh Akali Dal Party, branded the farmers' killing a "massacre" and said it indicated that the Indian Government did not want to live in peace with Punjab's 16 million Sikhs.

"It is time we decide once and for all whether the Sikhs want to choose between death and liberation," the TIMES OF INDIA and other newspapers quoted him as telling reporters in Punjab's capital Chandigarh.

Mr. Mann, an ex-police officer, said he stood for the "freedom, sovereignty and independence of the Sikhs" and for the establishment of Khalistan as a buffer state between "Hindu India" and "Islamic Pakistan".

Mr. Mann lashed out against Punjab Governor Om Prakash Malhotra, a former Indian Army chief who took charge in December, and demanded that he too should be called back by New Delhi.

Mr. Malhotra "has abused Punjabi language, humiliated innocent Sikhs by having whole townships destroyed, insulted lawyers and intellectuals, gagged the press and robbed every Sikh of his self-respect," Mr. Mann charged.

There was no immediate reaction to Mr. Mann's comments from New Delhi, which governs Sikh-majority Punjab and deployed Indian Army troops in five out of Punjab's 12 districts in December following escalating

Sikh militant violence. The soldiers are currently not engaged in anti-militant operations.

Mr. Mann held a round of talks with Prime Minister Chandra Shekhar in December on ways to end the eight-year-old Khalistan campaign. But Sikh rebels immediately denounced him as a traitor.

Mr. Mann was arrested and charged for alleged involvement in the 1984 assassination of Prime Minister Indira Gandhi, and released from prison by the slain premier's son and successor Rajiv before the November 1989 polls.

The Sikh politician has previously embarrassed New Delhi by calling for a U.N. referendum in Punjab to decide if the state's Sikhs, who outnumber Hindus in the border province, wanted to secede.

Efforts Continue for Release of MP's Daughter

BK2802033491 Delhi Domestic Service in English
0240 GMT 28 Feb 91

[Text] The union minister of state for home, Mr. Subodh Kant, has said that efforts are continuing to secure the safe release of Mrs. Nahida, daughter of the National Conference MP [Member of Parliament], Mr. Saifuddin Soz. Talking to PTI [PRESS TRUST OF INDIA] in New Delhi last night, he said that such an incident has occurred when the government is taking all possible measures to restore normalcy in the Kashmir valley.

Mrs. Nahida was kidnapped from Jhanpura area of Srinagar city by suspected militants yesterday evening, while she was returning home. She is a lecturer in the Institute of Management and Public Administration of Srinagar.

Several political parties have condemned the kidnapping. The Janata Dal spokesman, Mr. Jaipal Reddy, urged the government to make an all-out effort for the safe release of Mrs. Nahida.

The BJP [Bharatiya Janata Party] spokesman, Mr. J.P. Mathur, said efforts should be intensified to secure the release of Mrs. Nahida.

The state unit of the J&K [Jammu and Kashmir] National Conference and the pradesh [state] Congress-I have expressed shock over the kidnapping.

Mr. Dharampal Sharma, MP, has also condemned the cowardly act. He demanded urgent action to trace Mrs. Nahida and said the culprits should be brought to book immediately.

Iran

Paper Demands War Reparations From Kuwait

LD2802101291 Tehran IRNA in English 0850 GMT
28 Feb 91

[Text] Tehran, Feb. 28, IRNA—The Persian daily 'JOMHURI-YE ESLAMI' said Thursday that during September-February Kuwait's Government in exile spent all too generously outside Kuwait to win superpower help for ousting the Iraqis and returning to power at home. It said because the Kuwaiti Government has demonstrated a unique generosity when it comes to protecting its own stakes, the occasion is now ripe for Iran to demand damages from that country for her having continuously helped Iraq in its eight-year war with Iran. The paper said Kuwait had done all that despite her avowals of being "impartial" in the Iraq-Iran war.

In commentary the daily listed Kuwait's various aids to Iraq during the latter's war with Iran, and recommended that the Islamic Republic do not lose time to file claims against Kuwait. It added that by collecting "at least a portion of war damages Iran may be able to heal the past wounds and mollify the beloved and self-sacrificing Iranians who, as a result of the fantastic wishes of the ruling shaykhs in Kuwait suffered, without complaint, the agonies of an onerously long war."

To justify Iran's filing of a claim for reparations from Kuwait and to demonstrate Kuwait's hostile attitude towards Iran, the daily has quoted statements by Kuwait's envoys here and there including their acknowledgement of the existence of a "common defense treaty" between Iraq and Kuwait whereby "the Kuwaitis could not but adopt a position in favor of Iraq."

"When in 1986," said the daily quoting a report by Kuwait's news agency "one group of Kuwaiti volunteers were being recruited for war against Iran, Iraq's ambassador to Kuwait referred to Kuwait's gesture saying that the move was 'a token of the moral attachment of the Arabs to their own motherland, and of their commitment to defend it against any outside aggression.'"

Elsewhere the commentary reminded that in March 1986 Kuwait founded a "popular committee" for collecting contributions for the Iraqi war effort against Iran thereby funnelling at least two million dollars to Iraq.

The commentary concluded that throughout the war years Kuwait's behavior towards Iran was in sharp contrast with the international conventions for neutrality, and that on that basis the country should compensate Iran for her share in the war damage to the Islamic Republic.

King Fahd Said Seeking Restoration of Ties

LD2802112991 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian
1030 GMT 28 Feb 91

[Text] Fahd, the shah [as heard] of [Saudi] Arabia, has called for the restoration of ties between that country

and the Islamic Republic of Iran. According to the Central News Unit from Ahvaz, in his meeting with the Kuwaiti crown prince in Riyadh yesterday, during a speech broadcast by Riyadh radio at 0830 [0500 GMT] today, Fahd claimed:

While there were differences between Iran and Iraq, the positions of Kuwait and Arabia were not antagonistic to Iran. He added: We fully understood that Iraq did not have the ability to defeat Iran. However, our aim was the survival of Iraq. Fahd claimed: The member states of the Persian Gulf Cooperation Council never took positions antagonistic to Iran. Those countries continued to seriously review relations between the Persian Gulf states and Iran.

Fahd added: We want good and peaceful relations with Iran. If an opportunity arises, and when this difficulty that Saddam has created is over, some sort of coexistence with Iran must be formulated.

Fahd spoke of the position and the strategic importance of the Islamic Republic of Iran and said: In the very near future, Iraq will witness major changes. It is hoped that a leadership that is in coordination with events will take over in Iraq. Shah Fahd said: The expansionist policies of Iraq in the region have been defeated. This defeat will benefit the people of Iraq since Saddam cannot take that country toward progress.

Egyptian Attempts To Restore Ties Said 'Futile'

LD2802095591 Tehran IRNA in English 0802 GMT
28 Feb 91

[Text] Tehran, Feb. 28. IRNA—A Persian daily Thursday commented on revival of Islam and awakening of the Muslim masses in the world and recommended the Egyptian regime to give up subservency to the U.S. and the Zionist regime.

The morning daily 'JOMHURI-YE ESLAMI' in a political commentary referred to the statements of the Egyptian Foreign Minister 'Ismat 'Abd-al-Majid last Sunday that Tehran and Cairo will resume diplomatic ties in a near future. However, the statement was denied by a spokesman for Iran's Foreign Ministry.

The daily stressed that the reasons that Iran broke up diplomatic ties with Egypt are now even stronger than before because of the intensified Zionist crimes against the Palestinians.

It criticized the Egyptian regime for its failure to support the Islamic uprising of the Palestinian intifadah, and said that on the contrary Cairo has worked against the Palestinian cause.

Therefore Egypt's efforts to establish ties with the Islamic Republic of Iran is futile under these conditions, it concluded. [as received]

Postwar U.S.-European Conflicts Predicted

NC2802085091 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian
0448 GMT 28 Feb 91

[Commentary prepared by the Central News Unit's Research Group]

[Text] In the name of God. With the completion of the Iraqi forces' withdrawal from Kuwait, the allied forces and especially America have put pressure on Baghdad to accept all the UN resolutions as a new pretext to destroy the remainder of Iraq's Army and infrastructural resources. Since the objective announced by the allied front—in which the armed forces of America, Britain, and France have the most participation—force was used to make Iraq withdraw from Kuwait. From now on, the allied forces' presence in the region will not be legitimate and they will have to leave the region immediately. However, these forces are apparently looking for various pretexts to protract their presence in the region. America wants to protract its presence for one reason, and the European countries for similar reasons.

Political experts believe that after the achievement of the war's military objectives, Washington's major program in the next phase will be to continue the current situation until the realization of the political objectives. However, this will not be easy. The greatest problem will be the acceptance by a uniting Europe and the Soviet Union of America's leading role in determining the future of the region. This is something which Europe in particular will not accept as America wants. The propounding of a peace plan by France for solving the crisis, and the stance of the EEC in the days before the commencement of the aerial war all spoke of the existence of differences of views between America and Europe. We should now wait to see new developments in this context. It seems that Europe's current concordance with America in the stage after the liberation of Kuwait is so that Europe will not lag behind in achieving more gains.

France recently called for the convening of a conference similar to the post-World War II Yalta conference in 1945. Obviously this view cannot be without having taken regional economic and political elements into consideration. After the Soviet Union, France was the major mentor of Saddam Husayn's government, and America's insistence on a change in Iraq's political structure will remove France's role from Iraq's political-economic future.

Basically after every war, especially when several major industrialized countries are involved, the exploitation of economic resources and the influencing of the political affairs of the countries in question form part of the objectives of the participants in the war in order to determine the sphere of influence. The post-World War II incidents and the efforts by the main countries of the allied forces which led to the Yalta Conference among America, Britain, and the Soviet Union was within this context and shows that the allied front in the current war have turned their attention to the immense economic

resources of the region and the costs that Iraq, Kuwait, Saudi Arabia, and other regional countries will have to pay for the reconstruction of their countries.

Also, at a time when many political analysts believe that the bud of the new world order in the Persian Gulf will close, internal conflicts in the military alliance in addition to the Soviet Union's specific views on the region, as well as the world's future system cannot but have an impact on current issues in the region.

In view of the fact that Europe and especially France, Germany, and Italy, which are among the staunch supporters of the rapid formation of a European unity, in view of the major needs that they have for Persian Gulf oil, and by taking into consideration the traditional influence that Europe has had on Iraq, a prediction that once the war dies down, Europe will resist America's excessive wants is not far from expectations. If the news published in the European press on the conclusion of a \$9-billion agreement between American companies and the Kuwaiti amir are true, it will also enrage America's closest European ally—Britain. And maybe the reason why Britain's Foreign Secretary Douglas Hurd cut short his visit to Portugal and went to Washington was because he wanted to gain a larger share of Kuwait's \$200-billion reconstruction.

At any rate, political experts believe that with the conclusion of the war against Iraq, the conflict and war in the allied front and especially between America and Europe—despite the total coordination that existed in forming the military alliance and in directing the war—will rise. But the fact is that the complicated international relations in the region should inevitably take into consideration the special characteristics of the Persian Gulf region and of its major countries, especially Iran.

Allied Forces' Primary, Secondary Aims Viewed

LD2702161891 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian
1103 GMT 27 Feb 91

[Unattributed commentary]

[Text] In the name of God, the compassionate, the merciful. Good day, dear and respected listeners.

It seems that with the continuation of the war operations in Kuwaiti territory and in parts of Iraq, there is no room for diplomatic plans under present circumstances. Efforts to arrive at a new resolution; the ceasefire proposal by Cuba and Yemen, who are among the members of the Security Council; or the regions' political requests for a halt to the war operations—none are currently being heard. This is because the allied forces are confident of their abilities to distinguish other objectives of the war and to achieve these.

If, in the early day of the crisis, the withdrawal of Iraq from Kuwait was the chief aim, now, following the speech made by the Iraqi president about accepting an

official withdrawal, the multinational forces in the coalition of Iraq's enemies are not at all prepared to end their advance and halt the war. The U.S. president is giving himself the right to call Saddam's speech an outrage. It is clear that in this crisis, which was a mistake from the start, some golden opportunities have been lost.

The intransigence of both sides closed the door for any mediation and a political solution. Now retreat, which resembles fleeing—under the air supremacy of the coalition forces—is a mistake that the Iraqi leader was bound to make.

Imagine, if Iraq had accepted full withdrawal several days before the ground war in response to the mediation of Iran or of the Soviet Union. But these opportunities were lost and the allied forces will not accept any project or a political solution while they are sure of advancing without any hindrances. They intend to complete their victory from their own standpoint, and to force Iraq to accept total defeat.

Yes, this war carried both overt and covert aims. If, in the early stages of the crisis the withdrawal of Iraq from Kuwait was the overt aim of the international coalition and the destruction of the Iraqi war machine, the covert one, now that the alliance forces have been able to put out of action part of the Iraqi Army, the unofficial aim is to change the political system of Iraq and to bring about the downfall of Saddam.

The Israeli regime, which is seeing the benefits and losses of the war without taking part in it, has already declared that no problem will be solved so long as Saddam remains in power. On the other hand, some specialists believe that the invasion of southern Iraq by the allied forces, from the military standpoint, follows as a consequence of the full encirclement of the Iraqi Army in Kuwait and the cutting of its supply routes. From a political standpoint, this leads to the following question: Is the long-term occupation of this region compatible with the continuation of the present rule in Baghdad?

There is no doubt that the victory of the allied forces will lead to their long-term stay, using various excuses such as the maintenance of the political and military security of Kuwait and the prevention of threats to the oilfields, until such time as they secure war reparations.

Apart from this, the stationing of forces constitutes a major part of the new security system that America wants to establish in the region.

The events of the battlefields show the truth of previous analysis and remarks—this war is a tragedy for the region and the Middle East. If the countries of the region are not sufficiently prepared, certain consequences will be awaiting the region that are contrary to the interests of the people.

Commentary on U.S. Continuation of 'Invasion'

LD2702154991 Tehran IRNA in English 1435 GMT
27 Feb 91

["U.S. Groping for Excuses To Continue Invasion of Iraq"—by Hoseyn Hoseynzadehl]

[Text] Tehran, Feb. 27, IRNA—Despite the Iraqi troop withdrawal from Kuwait, American officials are trying their hardest to suggest that the Iraqis are fighting the U.S.-led forces.

The ASSOCIATED PRESS Wednesday [27 February] quoted U.S. Army officials as claiming that the American Marines and an armoured Iraqi unit are still fighting outside Kuwait City for control of the international airport, while reports confirm the Iraqi pull-out from Kuwait.

Washington in fact have [as received] been trying to misrepresent the facts of the battlefield in a bid to win public endorsement for its actions which continue beyond all reasonable proportions. The world people would not approve attacking a retreating army, and on no ground may the onslaught of the U.S.-led forces against Iraqi troops on their own soil be justified. The anti-Iraq coalition by taking advantage of the legal term "hot pursuit", are in fact trying to find a legal basis to justify their policy and to continue their advance inside Iraqi territory and destroy the enemy's command headquarters.

That is precisely the reason why the West is trying hard to suggest that the Iraqi Army is still engaging the Western forces in warlike operations.

Infiltration is justified into enemy territory only if fighting is still going on, but the U.S.-led alliance has violated all conventions by chasing the Iraqis deep into their own territory despite the fact that the retreating Iraqi troops have little chance or capacity for resistance.

On the sum of reports from Iraq and Kuwait it is all too obvious that the Westerners are publishing false reports in an attempt to justify their unwarranted invasion of Iraq, so that their aggression is viewed by the world as a punishment which the Iraqi Government has really deserved.

U.S. Warned of Anti-West Islamic Movements

LD2702210891 Tehran in English to Europe
1930 GMT 27 Feb 91

[Station commentary]

[Text] With the culmination of the war in recent days and the start of multinational forces ground offensive against Iraqi troops, the new phase of the oil war has begun in the Persian Gulf. It appears that this is the phase leading to the eventual occupation of Kuwait. According to political observers, presently, America, without considering the [word indistinct] aspects of the

war and the extent of losses suffered by both sides, is trying to depict a major victory with the public opinion. But observers of military issues, in view of widening dimensions of the war, believe that the losses inflicted upon Iraq and the multinational force will not be made up for several years. One has to note as to what extent the U.S. officials, who are by every means endeavoring to safeguard their interests in the Persian Gulf region in the future, are willing to pay a heavy price for it.

Until lately, the U.S.-led allied force pursued its (?stated) objective under the cover of the UN resolutions: but from now onward, with the Iraqi withdrawal from Kuwait, these resolutions are unable to meet the real needs of the American ringleaders. The Americans are trying to guarantee the security of their future interests by launching a major onslaught inside Iraq, apart from annihilating the Iraqi war machine. This security, which is said to be within the framework of energy security—contrary to the notion of the U.S. ruling clique—cannot be guaranteed through the stability of supportive states in the region, including the Qods-occupying regime [Israel]. The reason is that U.S. military presence itself with a [word indistinct] ground for the instability of the pro-U.S. governments in the future. Should America want to remain in the region after Iraqi withdrawal from Kuwait, it will certainly come across an unpredictable reaction from anti-imperialist forces.

America intends to draw up new power equations in its favor in the Middle East at the end of the war, unaware of the fact that overall conditions will not permit the American ringleader to take the situation in any direction they want. Islamic movements in the region, which have, since 1980, emerged as the most authentic anti-imperialist current in the Middle East, will be able to further confront any hegemonistic attempt on the part of America in the Middle East region. This struggle, considering the gains made in the 1980's, will be waged with greater intensity and in a more well-planned manner. Therefore, it appears that the U.S. government should speedily withdraw its forces from the region and entrust to the regional states the task of establishing security. The reason is that as a matter of principle, security of the Middle East region, especially that of its most sensitive part—namely the Persian Gulf—is attainable solely through the mutual cooperation of countries of this region. Any sort of foreign intervention will in fact disturb the security of one state or several countries.

In the opinion of most experts today, the regional security plan is the only practiced and all-round method to guarantee future stability and peace in the region.

Radio Responds to UN Human Rights Report

LD2702171591 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian
1030 GMT 27 Feb 91

[Text] The final report of the special envoy of the UN Human Rights Commission, which was presented to the commission's 47th session in Geneva, has been published.

According to IRNA, while praising the Islamic Republic of Iran for its cooperation with him and the commission, Galindo Pohl stressed the necessity for the Human Rights Commission not to adopt a political or selective attitude toward states in the report. He said: Despite the efforts of those who do their best to show this action as a political one, the UN rejects the use of reports on human rights for political goals.

The report contains certain allegations, such as on the large numbers of executions of those guilty of narcotics smuggling.

Galindo Pohl termed the investigation of human rights in Iran as a complex mission due to Iranian society's political complexity. He iterated that the human rights situation in Iran has been viewed in an incomplete and prejudiced way, and if we are to take a constructive approach to it, then allegations should be based on witness reports.

Galindo Pohl's final report also refers to small-group acts of terror in Iran. It describes terrorism as a kind of condemned political struggle which should be eliminated for human rights and also for political concerns.

At the end of his report, Galindo Pohl provides a comprehensive list of claims made and the detailed responses given by the government of the Islamic Republic of Iran.

Majles Deputy Speaker Attacks U.S. Allies

*LD2702171791 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian
1030 GMT 27 Feb 91*

[Text] The Islamic Majles held an open session today. Our correspondent reports on the session:

During today's open session of the Islamic Majles, which was chaired by Mr. Hashemian [deputy speaker of the Majles], Mr. Hashemian congratulated world Shiites, and particularly our Muslim compatriots on the auspicious birthday of the lord of the age [the hidden imam] may God hasten his lofty advent, on 2 March, which also coincides with the global day of the oppressed. Mr. Hashemian attacked the aggressive policies of the United States and its allies in the Persian Gulf.

In continuation of this session, debate continued on the legal draft bill about adding a note to Article 106 of the Majles' internal regulations. The details of this proposal were approved. Also during this session the draft bill on payment of new year bonuses to employees of the Martyr Raja'i nlan was raised with double urgency and its double urgency was approved.

In continuation of this session, the legal bill on the Chamber of Commerce and Mines and Metals of the Islamic Republic of Iran was raised for a second reading. Portions were ratified by the deputies. On the basis of

this ratification the Chamber of Commerce and Mines and Metals of the Islamic Republic of Iran will be set up in order to assist the country's growth and economic development, and to promote the exchange of ideas among industrial, mining, agricultural, and commercial managers. The central office of this chamber, named the Chamber of Iran in this bill, will be in Tehran. The chamber will be a nonprofitmaking organ with financial independence.

Pakistan

Official Welcomes Gulf Cease-Fire Announcement

*BK2802120691 Islamabad Domestic Service in English
1100 GMT 28 Feb 91*

[Text] Pakistan has welcomed the announcement of a cease-fire in the Gulf war and described it as a positive decision. This was stated by the adviser on information and broadcasting, Sheikh Bashir Ahmad, at a news conference in Beijing today where he was accompanying the prime minister on his tour to China.

In a statement on the announcement, Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif said Pakistan and China firmly and unequivocally upheld nonuse of force in settling disputes between states. About the postconflict scenario, Pakistan and China agreed that the security of the region should be the responsibility of the regional (?countries) and that foreign forces should not be stationed in the region on a long-term basis.

About his talks with the Chinese leaders, Mr. Nawaz Sharif said he was completely satisfied with them and expressed the confidence that his visit would reinforce our existing close ties with China, being a steadfast and reliable friend.

Delegate Urges End to Repression in Kashmir

*BK2702164691 Islamabad Domestic Service in Urdu
1500 GMT 27 Feb 91*

[Text] Pakistan has called upon India to stop its repressive actions in occupied Kashmir, which are a gross violation of human rights. Pakistan has also asked India to pave the way for a peaceful solution of the issue in accordance with the UN resolutions and the Simla Agreement. The call was made by Pakistan's representative, S.M. Zafar, while replying to the Indian delegate's remarks during a discussion on the Kashmir issue at the Human Rights Commission meeting in Geneva. The Pakistani delegate said democracy cannot be preserved by [words indistinct] bullets, dusk-to-dawn curfew, and brutalities against the people, as practised by India in occupied Kashmir. The delegate rejected the Indian allegations of Pakistani interference in the internal struggle in occupied Kashmir.